

**BRIEF PROJECT/ PROGRAMME TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE**  
**Half-year (6 Month) Report—due Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**

(Recommended length: 6 pages)

Project/ Programme Name	Long-Term Conservation of Argali and Snow Leopard in the Trans-Boundary Areas of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion between Mongolia and Russia (Second Phase)
Project Number	MN0038.02
Reporting Period	July.2009-Dec.2009
Project Start Date (FY)	01.July.2009 (FY10)
Date Report Completed (MM/YR)	Jan.2010
Report Completed By	Onon Yondon, species programme manager

**1) Progress on Activities and Related Financial Issues**

(i) Provide a **brief** (3/4 page) summary of progress at the main activity level against the project/programme workplan, highlighting any areas that are well behind schedule.

**OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure long-term conservation of Argali and Snow leopard in the selected areas through proactive involvement of local communities and local organisations**

*Output 1.1. Herder communities are strengthened in terms of institutional as well as business development*

- Assessment conducted on the planning capacity of the community group for business plan, its implementation and benefits by an independent expert (Mercy Corps) in October 2009.
- Joint meeting organized with local herder community groups and Mercy Corps for establishing an association of community groups for the livestock joint market in September 2009.
- Established database of community groups for monitoring the income, expenditure of the community fund, joint activities, income from business activities and poverty percentage in December 2009.
- Totally, 25 members of 9 community groups from the project implementation area gathered together to participated in the Community Development Festival which is held on the annual basis in Khovd province, coinciding with Western region partnership-2009 trade fair in 26-30 August 2009. Various products, valued at 2250USD were displayed from which goods equalling to 605USD were sold. Hence, it could be concluded that herders are capable to produce quality goods to meet market needs. An award ceremonial was organized as side event to identify and reward five community groups of the western region with most outstanding performance. The herders' group from Bukhmurun soum of Uvs aimag, entitled "Tsagaan ovoo" was identified as best under the nomination "The best environment-friendly community". Furthermore, Ms.S.Tsengen, member from "Tsagaan shuvuut" community group, has gained the golden medal for its fashionable traditional clothing for daily use in the "Goyol" fashion show of western provinces. Therewith, the motivation of herders was significantly increased. Our community group members were greatly interested in the products brought and displayed by other herders from various provinces in Mongolia and could spot the products that are most demanded.

*Output 1.2. Population census and monitoring of Argali and Snow leopard in the project areas conducted on regular basis through active involvements of local herders and border guards*

- Developed simplified Event Book System for monitoring of Argali, Snow Leopards and its prey species and conducted trainings for PA monitoring officers on the use Event Book System.
- Assessment was undertaken for the implementation of Gulzat Local PA's CAP and communities' conservation work plan in the buffer zone of Turgen and Tsagaan shuvuut PAs on December 2009.

- Discussed and agreed with UNBSPAs administration on undertaking management of wildlife monitoring through local community and border guards on 9-10 December 2009.
- Organized field meeting with Tsagaan Nuur Border Military Defense for establishing a contract on wildlife monitoring in the trans-boundary area of Siilkhem area on 23 August 2009.
- Organized joint workshop with stakeholders of Tuva and Gornii Altai for developing one-year cooperation action plan of wildlife conservation in the trans-boundary area on 10-13 December 2009.
- Following the recommendations from the meeting sessions with partners, the MNET is requested to conduct a countrywide population monitoring survey of the game species (argali sheep, ibex, Mongolian gazelle, black-tailed gazelle and wild ass) in collaboration with WWF Mongolia and the Mammalian Ecology Laboratory of the Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences. WWF Mongolia has facilitated this activity under the “**Population assessment of Mountain and Steppe game species at national scale**” within the framework of World Bank, Dutch government and Altai Sayan project by UNDP/GEF funding.

***Output 1.3.** The management effectiveness of local PA “Gulzat” improved with active participation of local people in terms of wildlife and grazing management.*

- Roles and responsibilities of management authorities of Gulzat Local PA were clarified and approved by the Aimag’s governor in September 2009.

***Output 1.4:** Compensation schema “Buy Goat for Snow Leopard” is evaluated and improved in terms of sustainability and replicated in Tsagaan Shuvuut and Turgen Mountains*

- Conducted evaluation of “Buy Goat for Snow Leopard’ Programme by independent experts of “Snow leopard conservation foundation” NGO in December 2009.

***Output 1.5:** Trustfully cooperation between local communities and mobile anti-poaching unit against poaching and illegal wildlife trade is well established*

- Detailed reports of environmental violations covering the period from 2006 to 2008 were collected from soum environmental inspectors and were compiled in line with environmental violation cases reported at Police department in 2008. Larger violations occurred since 1997 are recorded in Monitoring and compiling “Irvess” software programme of illegal hunting and trade cases’ database.
- Law on hunting and 2nd article of 46th resolution of the Minister for Nature and Environment were violated by the citizen from Ulaangom soum (one marmot), the citizen from Turgen soum (3 marmots), the citizen from Bukhmurun soum (32 marmots), the citizens of Sagil soum (15 marmots). The citizen from Ulaangom soum bought 100 marmot skins, the trade which violates the article 15’ .1 of provision 15’ of the Law on hunting. Total of 151 marmot skins were confiscated and turned into state revenue. Six caliber guns and 11 traps are temporarily confiscated.
- In order to move out 40 gers, 15 vehicles and approximately 450 individuals who illegally mined gold, the “Ger” event was organized by the Police department, governor’s office of Tarialan soum and environmental protection department on October 26-29.
- In the reporting period, “Irvess-1” operational group has confiscated and turned into state revenue total of 300 wooden boards, 2 tons of salt, 151 marmot skins, 325 fishes and 6.55 m<sup>3</sup> of firewood that were obtained illegally, the compensation of 2450 USD and fine of 950USD were imposed.

***Output 1.6:** Communication and public awareness programme for achieving objective and outputs elaborated and implemented*

- The baseline K-A-P (knowledge, attitude, practice) survey was undertaken for developing communications programme on CBWLM and ecological values of Argali and Snow Leopard.

**Objective 2: Facilitate to improve legislative frame work for sustainable CBWLM, which promotes conservation of wildlife and ensures benefit sharing to local communities**

**Output 2.1:** *CBNRM legislations assessed and updated, which promotes sustainable use of natural resources and creates mechanism for benefit sharing among communities*

- An expert from Namibia visited the project area last September and upon arrival has conducted a workshop as follow-up. The Namibian experiences, achievements and lesson learnt of CBWLM were covered as main topic of this workshop which is held in UB and involved many stakeholders and partners.
- An amendment to the Community group regulation has been finalized jointly with Altai-Sayan project and MNET.

## **Module B. Habitat Conservation and Management**

***Objective 1. Facilitate establishing new PA in priority areas (critical habitat and migration corridors) of Argali and Snow leopard, which includes also trans-boundary PA's***

**Output 1.1: Official acceptance of Gap Analysis is obtained and justification for establishing new PA's elaborated accordingly**

- The countrywide ecological gap analysis has been completed, co-financed by EAG project, GEF/UNOPS, WWF Netherlands and TNC.
- Project team has refined justifications for new PAs to be submitted to the Parliament based on the results of the Gap analysis on December 2009.

**Output 1.2:** Negotiation between Mongolia and Russia for official designation of trans-boundary Protected Area in Uvs Lake Basin is successfully facilitated.

- A joint meeting was held in Kizil, Tuva and involved the representatives from WWF Mongolia, UNDP Altai sayan project at both sides, Uvs nuur PA administration in Russia and Mongolia, Academy of Sciences of Mongolia as well as Mongol Altai PA administration. The meeting focused on various issues in the field of conservation, including the cooperation of Russia and Mongolia in Uvs nuur protected areas, development of joint management plan of Uvs nuur PA, conservation of Argali sheep and Snow leopard population in the trans-boundary area, as well as monitoring survey of Argali and SL population of Uvs and Bayan-Ulgii provinces in the trans-boundary area.

**Output 2.1.** Joint monitoring programme for Argali and Snow leopard is elaborated and implemented

- The joint argali survey in the trans-boundary area between Mongolia and Russia was undertaken in November 4-30, 2009. Mongolian and Russian sides simultaneously conducted this survey to identify the resources of argali sheep in the trans-boundary area at their respective territories in accordance with previously agreed schedule.

(ii) Quantify and explain any financial consequences related to activity implementation (e.g. any major deviations in budget or expenditure).

## **2) Outcomes and Impacts Achieved**

Describe succinctly any achievements in terms of *outcomes and impacts* delivered against the project/programme's stated objectives and goals, reporting information against the indicators and/or milestones in the strategic plan.<sup>1</sup> In your text, seek to explain specifically what role the project/WWF

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<sup>1</sup> It is recognized, however, that significant progress on achieving outcomes and impacts may not be made in a 6-month period since reporting in July.

played in bringing about the achievements in its complex, multi-stakeholder environment *Do not include any activity reporting in this section.*

- Good recommendations to improve business skills of community groups and increase opportunities to business activities were elaborated by an independent expert. Detailed work plan was refined in accordance with the expert's recommendation. According to the survey, undertaken among herder communities, 41% of respondents regard the importance of being the group member as "making hay together", 18% as "get involved in number of trainings" while 16% regard as "found business opportunity". This means that herders are coming together for all kind of joint activities related to livestock, resulted in better performance and time management. Hence, it could be concluded that the herders gained capacity of team working which would enable them to undertake successful business activities.
- As a result of three-year effective work of the project staff, strong community groups' teams were built in the argali habitat. Roughly all communities recognized the values of and benefits of cooperating (e.g. community associations) for joint market opportunities and meat/raw materials business development.
- Baseline data of income and expenditure lines of community fund, joint activities, income from business activities, poverty percentage and wildlife resource was compiled for better monitoring of achievements and lessons learnt.
- One-year cooperation activities for wildlife monitoring, patrolling and public awareness in selected trans-boundary PAs were developed by related stakeholders (WWF Mongolia, Altai-Sayan projects of UNDP, Administrations Siilkhem and Uvs Nuur Basin PAs).
- Decision makers of the provincial government became knowledgeable of the new concept on CBWLM and Local PA.
- Suitable areas in Turgen and Tsagaan Shuvuut Mountains for further replications were identified and recommendation for improvement of the Buy goat programme was elaborated.
- Resource of the main hunting game species and hunting reserve/area were identified in countrywide. On the basis of extrapolation methods described Argali population assessment (and in more detail in the Methods section of the main report), our point estimate of argali is 19,701, with a lower 95% confidence limit of 9,193 and an upper 95% confidence limit of 43,135 and point estimate of ibex is 24,371 with a lower 95% confidence limit of 13,840 and an upper 95% confidence limit of 43,873.
- MAPU "Ives-1" unit is well operational in the field even after the transition from WWF Mongolia to local Inspection agency.
- KAP baseline data compiled for developing the communications programme.
- After the workshop by the Namibian expert, on the CBWLM achievements and lesson learnt, the Altai-Sayan project agreed to fund the second study tour to Namibia for decision-makers from Parliament and government.
- Finalized country wide Ecological Gap Analysis.
- One priority area (Altan Khukhii) for Argali and Snow leopard is now part of PA network in the Altai-Sayan eco-region. The Parliament of Mongolia has approved a resolution for establishing 4 new PAs, covering the territory of 650,360 ha in December 2009. Furthermore, there are 3 new PAs, covering the area of 638,510 ha, that have been approved in the Altai-Sayan eco-region. These include: Altan Khukhii Mountain Nature Reserve area (88,140 ha) for protection of the Snow leopard and its prey species' core habitat; Mongol Els National Park (296,430 ha) for the research of mixed ecosystem of sand dune and lakes as well as for developing eco-tourism in the Altai-Sayan eco-region; and Uaagchirii Khar Nuur National Park with 253,940 ha territory.
- During the joint meeting with Russian counterparts, the cooperation activities in the trans-boundary area were clarified. One-year joint action plan for monitoring of Argali and SL, patrolling and public awareness was developed and the directors of Russian and Mongolian administrations of Uvs nuur PA signed the cooperation contract to improve the park conservation.

- 273 argali sheeps in Uvs province, 658 argali sheeps in Bayan-Ulgii province, 931 argali sheeps were counted in total in course of this survey. 70.7% of the total counted argali sheep is found in Bayan-Ulgii province while 29.3% - in Uvs province. The census of argali sheep in the trans-boundary area of Uvs province could not be completed due to weather conditions. The unrepeated number of argali sheep reaches 931. Despite the incomplete census, we believe that the actual number of argali sheeps in the trans-boundary area, especially in the trans-boundary area of Uvs province, should reach 1000-1100 heads at the Mongolian side.

### 3) Challenges and Strengths Affecting Performance

Based on your analysis of the progress made, for each set of workplan activities, objective, goal or milestone the project/programme sought to achieve in this reporting period explain *why* it was or was not accomplished, discussing briefly the *internal* (e.g. *management processes or capacity*) and/or *external challenges* (e.g. *stakeholder behaviour*) and/or *strengths* that enabled or hindered performance. What challenges or enabling conditions will you face over the next six months?

- The current capacity and conditions of community groups does not allow succeeding on the market. Therefore, we should focus on facilitating establishment and strengthening of the Community Associations.
- The “Buy goat” program which is implemented since 2007, is covering small area and involves only few herders. This could be the reason why it does not have great impact on the Snow leopard conservation. However, the compensation scheme itself should have significant results if managed properly and extended further.
- The starting period of Argali survey began comparatively late. The heavy snow did not allow us to complete the work. The Russian survey team was not able to work in the area bordering Bayan-Ulgii province (area of Siilkhem) due to thick snow layer. An incorrect choice of the survey period had negative impact on the work outcome. The argali sheep migrate between Russia and Mongolia between October and March, excluding small migrations in other months. They move to Mongolian part mostly in October in order to avoid heavy snow and cold weather. In contrary, they move back to Russia in March for lambing. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct survey in spring and autumn preferably each year or at least once in two years, which would enable us to identify the number of migrating argali sheeps, period and place could be determined as well. Consequently, we believe that hot migration areas will be accurately identified at both sides.

### 4) Adaptive Management

In light of the past and future challenges and strengths under (3) above, (i) how can the Network (including your office) help you to address these challenges, augment the strengths and improve your project/programme’s performance?

We will focus on the below 3 points for communities’ business management:

1. Cooperation between business entities and Community Association will be pinpointed to prepare raw materials that meet market demands. Hence, the association will have an opportunity to sell the raw materials at higher prices.
2. Alternative income generation from game species (argali trophy hunting and marmot hunting)
3. Capacity building of communities to improve business skills and seek for joint market.

Management of wildlife monitoring has been undertaken through local communities, border guards and PA administration staff while previously it was carried out by WWF Mongolia.

(ii) What changes are needed to project/programme strategies and activities, and how will any significant financial performance issues mentioned under (1)(ii) be addressed? Please attach the latest versions of

your action plan (e.g. logframe) and monitoring plan, if changes have been made and you are sending this TPR to a donor office.

**5) Communications/Stories** Highlight any actions or successes meriting communications attention (e.g. success stories (from 1 & 2 above), positive media coverage, new opportunities or partnerships, or major events) as well as any significant communications activities undertaken or planned over the next 6 months.

- At least 4 newspaper coverage and 3 times broadcasting of the activities through the local media
- Regular news updates on [www.econet.mn](http://www.econet.mn) web portal