



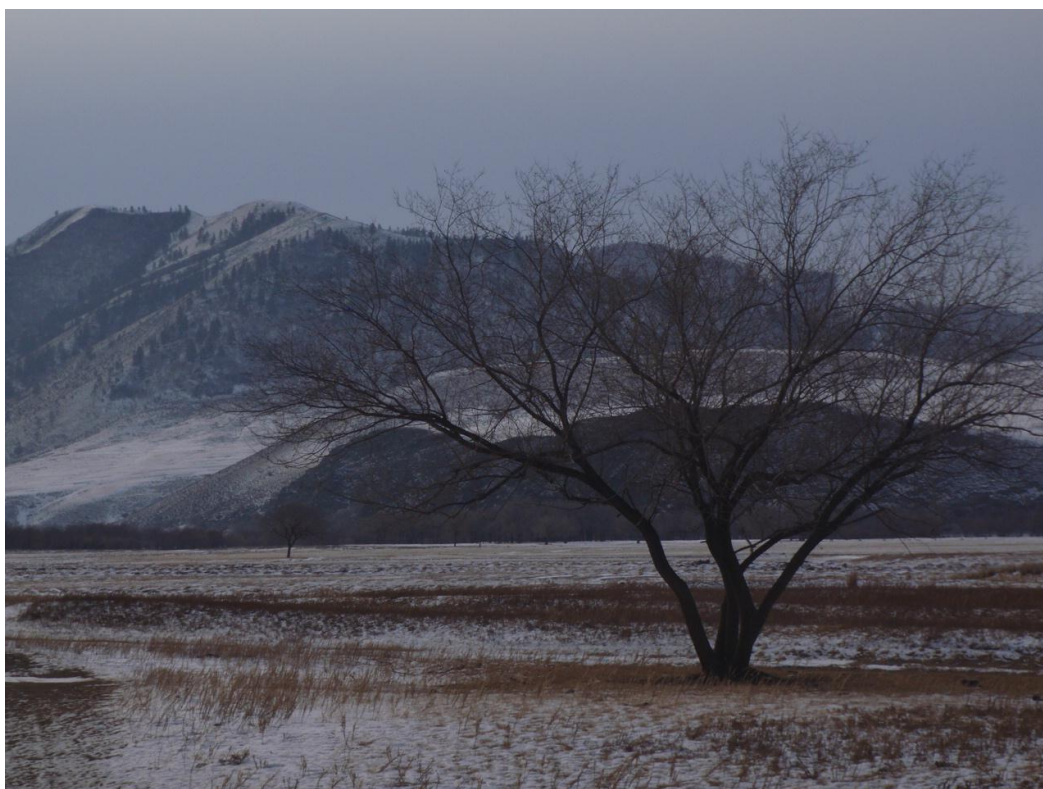
MINISTRY OF NATURE,
ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



Regional consultation on REDD+ in Selenge *aimag*, Mongolia

SUMMARY REPORT

20 - 21 November 2011



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UN-REDD

PROGRAMME

The United Nations Collaborative Programme
on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation in Developing Countries



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The purpose of the workshop was:

- To raise awareness among stakeholders in Selenge *aimag* about REDD+ and to inform participants about Mongolia’s intention to develop a National REDD+ Roadmap;
- To inform participants of the role of the UN REDD Programme in this process;
- To obtain initial feedback from participants regarding REDD+, and to better understand the role in forest governance and the capacity-building needs of Forest Bureaus, Forest Units and Forest User Groups in this part of Selenge *aimag*.

2.1 Participants

Approximately 70 people were invited to attend the workshop, with 52 people actually attending the workshop on the day. Participants included people from Forest Bureaus, Forest Units, forest rangers, environmental inspectors and representatives from Forest User Groups.

Annex A contains a list of workshop invitees and attendees.

2.1.1 Background: Forest Bureaus, Forest Units and Forest User Groups

With the passage of the Law on Forest in 2007, a new institutional structure for forestry was introduced to Mongolia which mirrors Mongolia’s highly decentralised model of government. Since that time, new forest bureaus have been established in *aimags* and as well as new forestry units in *soums*. A model for community-based forest management has also been introduced in the form of Forest User Groups (FUGs), which generally cover forest areas of between 1,000 – 6,000 hectares.

Government level	Mongolia	Forestry institution	Description
National	National	Forestry Agency	Lead agency for REDD+
Province	Aimag	Forest Bureaus	
District	Soum	Forest Units	
Local	Bag	Forest User Groups	Community-based forest management structure
		Private entities	Commercial timber extraction

Table 1: Organisational structure of the forestry sector by government level in Mongolia

3 Summary of workshop proceedings

3.1 Presentations

The Vice Director of the Forestry Agency, Mr Boldmyagmar, opened the workshop, welcoming participants and indicating Mongolia’s interest in developing a plan for Mongolia to engage with the emerging international REDD+ mechanism. Mr Boldmyagmar informed the workshop that Mongolia had been invited to be a partner in the UN REDD Programme and that a Taskforce had been established on 4 October 2011 to prepare a National REDD+ Roadmap. He further noted that Selenge *aimag* had been selected for the regional workshop because of its experience in the forestry

sector, and noted that participants should take this opportunity to include their voices in the development of the National REDD+ Roadmap.



Mr Bold Myagmar Demberel, Vice Director, Forestry Agency, Mongolia. (Photo by Lisa Ogle)

Presentations were then given on climate change, REDD+ and opportunities for regional and local implementation by Ms Lisa Ogle, UN-REDD Consultant.

A further presentation was given by Mr Enkhtaivan, Director of Community Participatory Forestry Unit, Forestry Agency, and an expert on boreal forests and community management, whose presentation noted the following:

- the main causes of forest degradation in Mongolia are: insect attack (the effects of which are multiplied after forest fires when insects eat forest re-growth); thawing of permafrost (causing roots to dry out and die leaving trees prone to being blown over); and illegal logging.
- Collection of nuts and illegal hunting is also a problem because wild animals play an important role in disseminating seeds.
- Disturbances to the water balance and permafrost are reducing the capacity of vegetation to recover. Vegetation from steppe now begins to grow where there was forest before.
- Allocation of harvesting quotas by the Forestry Agency and given to *aimags* and then to *soums*, are not based on adequate scientific assessments.

Annex B contains a copy of the workshop programme.

Click below to view a copy of the all the presentations given at the Workshop:

[EHKHEE – CAN YOU ARRANGE FOR THESE PRESENTATIONS TO BE LOADED ONTO THE UNDP WEBSITE SO THAT WE CAN USE HOTLINKS FOR ALL THE PRESENTATIONS?]

English	Presenter	Mongolian	Presenter
What is climate change? And What is REDD+?	Ms Lisa Ogle	[ENKHEE – PLEASE INSERT TITLE]	Ms Lisa Ogle
Overview of the UN REDD Programme	Ms Lisa Ogle	[ENKHEE – PLEASE INSERT]	Ms Lisa Ogle
Mongolian Forest Policy and Management	Mr N Enkhtaivan	[ENKHEE – PLEASE INSERT]	Mr N Enkhtaivan
REDD+ at the local level	Ms Lisa Ogle	[ENKHEE – PLEASE INSERT]	Ms Lisa Ogle

3.2 Observations by participants on changes in local climate

During the workshop, participants were asked to share their thoughts on whether they had noticed the climate changing over the past few years and decades, with participants noting the following:

- “It feels that it’s warming and small creeks are drying up and there is less water in the rivers. The rivers have breaks in them now.” This comment regarding the drying up of creeks and rivers was also echoed by many participants.
- “The permafrost is changing and more trees are being blown over by the wind. The rivers are drying up and there is less surface water.”
- “The permafrost zone is overheated and causing the soil to dry out, and the plants are drying out. The winters are harsher with sharper cold spells. Coniferous trees used to grow within 3 years, now their rate of growth has slowed to 6-7 years. The level of the rivers is decreasing; even a big river like the Ural is lower. Smaller plants are drying out under the harsh sun and weeds are increasing.” This observation regarding the drying out of young plants was echoed by others.
- “The rain is no longer absorbed by the soil and flows away quickly. Before, it would rain for seven days, but now there is too much rain in too short a time.”
- “Trees in the forest are dying, particularly on the top of the mountains.”
- “Vegetation is decreasing and there is increased sand movement.”
- From one man: “There is less precipitation in my *soum*, and the population of rodents has increased. The snow usually stayed until July; now it melts in June.”
- “Mining at the sources of rivers is causing the rivers to dry out.”³

³ The Government of Mongolia has passed the *Law to Prohibit Mineral Exploitation in Forest Areas and River Headwaters*. This Law has been used to cancel 246 mineral licences to date.

The workshop organizers note that many of these observations are consistent with the climate change predictions for Mongolia (see MARCC 2009).

3.3 Questions from participants

Following the presentations, questions were asked by participants, including:

- “What is carbon?”: Answer: the black stuff left over when a tree is burnt.
- “How is the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions measured?” Answer: MRV
- “When REDD+ is financed, can we write a proposal to reduce deforestation and submit it to UNDP?” Answer: Yes, one option is to include REDD+ objectives in FUGs Forest Management Plans and contracts, but it would probably be submitted to the local Forestry Unit.
- “How will the payments be calculated for an area which is reforested? By the number of hectares or the number of trees?” Answer: unclear at present. It will depend on the approach adopted under the national REDD+ strategy. Mr Boldmy also noted that this will be addressed in the forthcoming national Forest Policy
- “How can local Forest Units participate in REDD+, and how can their expenditures be refunded?” Answer: they will have increased regulatory obligations. We need to understand their capacity needs so that they can be funded in the REDD+ budget.
- “Forest Units and FUGs will be mainly responsible for implementing REDD+. The main challenge they are facing is funding. Funding should be received directly by the FUG and the people, otherwise it will be lost.” Answer: (Mr Boldmyagmar) there will be some international monitoring; (Lisa) the UN REDD Programme has standards to ensure that funds are managed transparently and with accountability.
- “The amount of funding should be certain.”
- “We need to work out a system to prevent leakage. For example, if one FUG is doing reforestation and the neighbouring FUG is cutting forest, what will the impact be on REDD+? The satellites will show a forest loss in one area and a forest gain in another.”
- An observation from one man: “Some neighbouring herders are letting their livestock into the forest to graze. Regulating this is a very delicate and difficult issue. Will fencing work?” Answer Forestry Agency (Mr. Enkhtaivan): No, fences create conditions for activities which are not transparent and restrict the movement of wildlife. There was a FUG in Bulgan *aimag* that fenced its area. This created some advantages, but also many disadvantages. REDD+ programme could help you to improve your Forest Management Plans e.g. by increasing forest protection for 5-10 years you will increase forest carbon.
- “There is a need to deliver training to local people, not just to people in Ulaanbaatar.” Answer: Mr Boldmyagmar noted that the Forestry Agency is developing a policy on this and

is planning to supply equipment and to give training on fire management next year which will support REDD+.

- “Some FUGs want to grow and sell seedlings, but the price paid for seedlings is insufficient.”



Photo: Workshop participants at Selenge aimag, Mongolia (Photo credit: Ms Battsetseg Tsagaanchuluun)

3.4 Findings of discussion groups

Following the lunch break, participants broke into four working groups and were asked to consider questions, including: What are the drivers of deforestation / forest degradation in your area? What are some of the potential solutions? Who should be responsible for these actions? and What capacity-building assistance is needed?

Annex C contains the detailed findings of each of the four Discussion Groups.

3.5 Workshop conclusions

Workshop organizers drew the following conclusions from the workshop:

- It is clear that the effects of climate change are already being felt in Mongolia, and that there is a real urgency for adaptation activities, with opportunities for REDD+ to assist with these (eg through watershed protection).
- Much more capacity-building needs to be done at the regional and local level to explain the link between climate change, forests and REDD+.
- There is a clear desire for Forest User Groups to play a more active role in forest management, and a clear indication that FUGs are prepared to take responsibility for the actions required. The FUGs also expressed an interest in exploring opportunities to engage with REDD+, such as considering the possibility of changing their Forest Management Plans.

4 Interview with Acting Director, Forest Unit, Mandal *soum*

The Acting Director and Forest Engineer of the Forest Unit in Mandal *soum*, Ms Naran Ravdan, was interviewed on 20 November 2011 to obtain information regarding the operation of the Forest Unit.

Question: What area does the Forest Unit cover?

The Forest Unit covers the entire *soum* area of 362,172 hectares which includes Strictly Protected Areas of 16,941 hectares. The Forest Unit has six professional employees (director, two engineers, accountant, driver and storekeeper), and five rangers located between the *soum* centre and a post in the country side.

Question: What are the main causes of deforestation in Mandal *soum*?

The main causes of deforestation in Mandal *soum* are: fire; illegal logging (by individuals in small quantities); and insect attack. Collection of fuel wood is not a big problem. A forest inventory was completed in 2009 by a private company.

The process of annual quotas takes place as follows: commercial entities and co-operatives make applications to the aimag; the aimag sends the plans to the Forestry Agency, which makes the allocation. The approved quantity is always lower than is initially requested.

Question: Do you have any difficulties with forest law enforcement?

Forest laws are generally well observed in Mandal *soum*. The Forest Authority has to report breaches of forest laws to Environmental Monitoring Unit (EMU) if they want enforcement action to be taken. The EMU is part of the Specialised Control Authority and falls under the control of the *soum* Governor. The EMU must cooperate with the police and the Forest Unit to carry out the enforcement action.

Question: What capacity-building assistance does the Forest Unit need?

More staff, such as extra rangers, and communication equipment so that the ranger can call the EMU and the Police where breaches of the Forest Law are identified. Radios would be useful because they are more reliable than mobile phones. Cameras and computers would be useful too.



*Police compound in Mandal soum holding illegally harvested timber which has been confiscated.
(Photo credit: Lisa Ogle)*

5 Direct consultation with Forest User Groups

On 21 November 2011, the UN REDD team travelled to a small cabin in Zuunharaa, two hours' drive from Mandal *soum* centre to meet with representatives from three Forest User Groups (**FUGs**). The FUGs represented were:

- Khurgalag FUG
- Baigal Eij FUG, and
- Ulziit Ovoo FUG.

A summary of the discussions is at **Annex D**.

5.1 Conclusion of consultation with FUGs

The consultation session with FUGs resulted in the following findings:

- FUGs represent a good model for community-based forestry management in Mongolia which could play a significant role in the implementation of REDD+ at the local level. The three FUGs consulted were able to demonstrate that they have achieved very positive results in addressing two of the major drivers of forest degradation in Mongolia, namely, reducing illegal logging, and avoiding or containing forest fires.
- FUGs do not receive any financial or technical support from the Government, although the FUGs in Mandal *soum* have been supported in the past by GIZ. In order to play a role in supporting REDD+ activities, FUGs require more support, including: information and capacity building on REDD+; technical assistance to prepare improved Forest Management Plans; legal training and provision of equipment (GPS, radios, cameras) (note: none of the FUGs

have a radio) to help them to improve law enforcement in their FUG areas; assistance with vehicles and fuel, or fodder for horses used for monitoring and enforcement purposes.

- FUGs operate on a very small, local scale, based on existing community relationships. This offers significant opportunities for benefit-sharing and dispute resolution under REDD+.
- FUGs are often managed by women, as the men are busy engaging in other income-earning activities such as herding livestock. FUGs are generally seen as 'women's work' because they do not generate much income. FUGs therefore offer an opportunity for forest managers (women) to communicate and raise awareness with herders (men), particularly on the issue of over-grazing in forests. FUGs expressed a clear preference to resolve this issue through awareness-raising and consensus.
- FUGs have good experience with reforestation and could be used as a vehicle to support REDD+ activities which seek to increase forest carbon stocks.

Annex A: List of invitees and participants in Mandal soum, Selenge

No	Name	Organization	Position	Attended?
1.	Ms.Z.Odonchimeg	Forest Unit, Altanbulag soum	Chair	Yes
2.	Ms.Delgermaa	FUG, Altanbulag soum	Leader	No
3.	Mr.Saintsogt	FUG, Altanbulag soum	Leader	No
4.	Mr.Ch.Byambasuren	"Undur Burgas", Bayangol soum	Leader	No
5.	Mr. Batmunkh	"Tsagaan chuluut" FUG, Bayangol soum	Leader	No
6.	Mr.B.Enkhbat	Forest Unit, Yuroo soum	Chair	Yes
7.	Mr.T.Baldandorj	"Bayalag" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	No
8.	Mr. L.Purevdorj	"Shaazgait" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	No
9.	Ms. D.Dolgor	"Unur Erdene" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	Yes
10.	Mr, Ch.Purevdalai	"Bayangol" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	No
11.	Mr. E.Ariunbat	"Tuguldur Khangai" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	No
12.	Mr. D.Ganbold	"Tanguu" FUG, Yoruu soum	Leader	Yes
13.	Mr. J.Jargalsaikhan	"Khuvch" FUG, Yoruu soum	Member	Yes
14.	Ms. Ch.Altantuya	"Zulzagan Tugul" FUG, Yoruu soum	Member	Yes
15.	Ms D.Sukhtsetseg	"Yesongol" FUG, Yoruu soum	Member	Yes
16.	Ms.M.Enkhmaa	"Tsetsegt Nuga" FUG, Tushig soum	Leader	Yes
17.	Mr. D.Turmunkh	"Nogoon Delkhii" FUG Tushig soum	Leader	Yes
18.	Ms. Dolzinsuren	"Khoot" FUG, Tushig soum	Leader	Yes
19.	Ms. B.Byambakhuu	"Uguumor" FUG leader, Tushig soum	Leader	Yes
20.	Mr. P.Odgerel	"Khyargastain Bayanburd" FUG, Tsagaannuur soum	Leader	Yes
21.	Mr. G.Bat-Erdene	"Bayalag Ireedui" FUG, Tsagaannuur soum	Leader	No
22.	Mr. N.Munkh-Orgil	"Rashaant" FUG, Zuunburen soum	Leader	No
23.	Mr. Ts.Zolboo	"Ireeduin Tsaram" FUG, Zuunburen soum	Leader	No
24.	Mr. L.Ankhubayar	Forest Unit, Khuder soum	Chair	Yes
25.	Mr. Jargal	"Khuderyn Undur" FUG, Khuder soum	Leader	Yes
26.	Mr. L.Bold-Ochir	"Munkh Khaikhan" FUG, Khuder soum	Leader	Yes
27.	Mr. B.Purevtseren	"Khersyn Undur" FUG, Khuder soum	Leader	Yes
28.	Mr. Nyamdorj	"Khuder Tugol" FUG Khuder soum	Leader	Yes

No	Name	Organization	Position	Attended?
29.	Mr. L.Ulaankhuu	"Selmen Khairkhan" FUG, Khuder soum	Leader	Yes
30.	Mr. Kh.Khurmetbek	"Altansumber" FUG, Sant soum	Leader	No
31.	Mr. G.Enkhtur	"Gunselsei" FUG, Sant soum	Leader	No
32.	Mr. Bayan-Erdene	Forest Unit, Baruunburen soum	Chair	Yes
33.	Mr. Tumen-Ulzii	"Dalt" FUG, Baruunburen soum	Leader	Yes
34.	Mr. L.Burenjargal	"Baigalyn khishig" FUG, Baruunburen soum	Leader	Yes
35.	Mr. Dorlig	"Buren tugul" FUG, Baruunburen soum	Leader	Yes
36.	Mr. D.Bat-Ireedui	"Tuvshinburen" FUG, Baruunburen soum	Leader	Yes
37.	Mr. N.Khuyag	"Delgerekh" FUG, Shaamar soum	Leader	No
38.	Mr. Goyo	"Yuroo aral" FUG, Shaamar soum	Leader	Yes
39.	Ms. O.Erdenechimeg	"Bayanburd" FUG, Shaamar soum	Leader	no
40.	Ms. G.Tsengelzaya	Forest Unit of Selenge aimag	Chair	Yes
41.	Mr. T.Tuvshintogs	Forest Unit of Selenge aimag	Specialist	Yes
42.	Mr. N.Khuayg	Forest Unit of Selenge aimag	Specialist	Yes
43.	Ms. O.Otgon-Erdene	Forest Unit of Selenge aimag	Specialist	Yes
44.	Ms. D.Lkhagva	"Bayan-Erkhet" FUG, Sukhbaatar soum	Leader	No
45.	Ms. G.Enkhjargal	"Nogoonlog" FUG, Sukhbaatar soum	Leader	No
46.	Mr. D.Bayarbat	" " FUG, Sukhbaatar soum	Leader	No
47.	Ms. Naran Ravdan	Forest Unit, Mandal soum	Specialist	Yes
48.	Mr. Onon	Forest Unit, Mandal soum	Specialist	Yes
49.	Mr. Jargal	Forest Unit, Mandal soum	Specialist	Yes
50.	Ms. B.Oyun	"Baigali eej" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
51.	Ms L.Batsukh	"Bat" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
52.	Ms. Gankhuyag	"Bayangol" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
53.	Mr. G.Davaadorj	"Dkh Oyun" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	
54.	Ms.A.Gantulga	"Marz" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	
55.	Ms. S.Nyamdorj	"Naran" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
56.	Ms.N.Tuya	"Nogoon Alt" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
57.	Ms. D.Oyungerel	"Khurgalag" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
58.	Ms. Ch.Tuya	"Uranbaigali" FUG, Mandal soum	Leader	Yes
59.	Mr. S.Sukhdavaa	"Togos Khairkhan" FUG, Khushaat soum	Leader	No
60.	Ms. B.Bolortuya	"Tarvagatai" FUG, Khushaat soum	Leader	Yes
61.	Mr. Buyantogtokh	"Mogoi" FUG, Khushaat soum	Leader	Yes

No	Name	Organization	Position	Attended?
62.	[None]	"Zurai tokhoi" FUG, Javkhlant soum	Leader	No
63.	[None]	"Sort" FUG, Javkhlant soum	Leader	No
64.	Ms. M.Tungalag	Forestry Agency	Director	No
65.	Mr. Sh.Enkhbold	Forestry Agency	Division Director	Yes
66.	Mr. Enkhtaivan	Forestry Agency	Unit director	Yes
67.	Mr. Boldmyagmar	Forestry Agency	Vice Chairman	Yes
68.	Ms Lisa Ogle	UNDP	Env. Consultant, UNDP	Yes
69.	Ms.B.Enkhtsetseg	UNDP	National Consultant	Yes
70.	Ms.Ts.Battsetseg	UNDP	AFO/SPAN	
71.	Ms. N.Gantuya	UNDP	Translator	Yes
72.	Mr. Batmunkh	UNDP	Driver	Yes

Annex B: Workshop programme

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER
SESSION ONE: Welcome and introductions		
9:00 – 9:30	Opening remarks	Ms.M.Tungalag, Director Forestry Agency
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction of participants	Own introductions
SESSION TWO: WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT IS REDD+?		
9:30 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is climate change? • What is the link between deforestation and climate change? • What is REDD+? 	Lisa Ogle UNDP / UN REDD Consultant
10:00 – 10.30	Question and answer session	Facilitator
10:40 – 11: 15	Coffee break	
SESSION THREE: UN-REDD Programme, opportunities and risks of REDD+		
11:15 – 11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the UN-REDD Programme • Prospects for obtaining funding for REDD+ 	Lisa Ogle
11.45 – 12.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could REDD+ work at the <i>aimag</i> and <i>soum</i> level? • What are the opportunities and risks? 	Lisa Ogle
12:15 – 13:00	Question and answer session	Facilitator
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
SESSION FOUR: DISCUSSION OF FORESTRY ISSUES IN SELENGE AIMAG		
14:00 – 16:00	Group discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Selenge <i>aimag</i>? • What are the challenges to forest governance at the aimag and soum level? • Who are the stakeholders likely to be affected by changes to forest management? 	Mr Enkhtaivan, Participatory Forest Management, Forestry Agency
SESSION FIVE: Where to from here?		
16:00 – 16:15	Outline of work plan of National REDD+ Taskforce and timetable for further action	Ms Lisa Ogle
16:15 – 16:30	Closing remarks	Ms Enkhtsetseg Bat-Ochir, UNDP National Consultant

Annex C: Findings of break out groups

Discussion group 1 – Participants: Forest bureaus and units

(O.Otgon-Erdene, T.Tuvshintugs, G.Tsengelzaya, N.Khuyagt, Bayan-Erdene, Jargal, Enkhbat, Onon)

What are the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Selenge <i>Aimag</i> ?	What are the potential solutions?	Who is responsible for carrying out these solutions?	How long is needed?	What assistance is needed to improve capacity of forest bureaus / forest units?
1. <u>Anthropogenic drivers</u> : a. Forest fires b. Pasture and hay making c. Mining	1.1. Awareness raising of prevention measures 1.2. Sustainable pasture management (pasture rotation and capacity) 1.3. Biological and technical restoration 1.4. Improved law enforcement	- Citizens - Private entities & FUGs, who possess forest areas - Forest units - Forest bureaus - Forest agency & MNET - Governors' boards in <i>Aimag</i> & <i>Soum</i> levels	3-5 years	- Regular training - Financial support - Equipment - Human capacity-building - New software
2. <u>Natural drivers</u> : a. Fire b. Global warming c. Insects attacks d. Desertification	2.1. Create fire-breaks 2.2. Planting trees and perennials 2.3. Forest thinning and cleaning 2.4. Survey of forest insects and eradication	- Citizens - Private entities & FUGs who possess forest areas - Forest units / Forest bureaus - Forest Agency & MNET - Governors' boards in <i>Aimag</i> & <i>Soum</i> levels	5-10 years	
3. <u>Policy errors</u> a. Over-concentration of population and livestock		- Citizens - Private entities & FUGs who possess forest areas - Forest units / Forest bureaus - Forest agency & MNET-> Parliament	1 - 3 years	
4. Inadequate forest management and forest activities	4.1. Implementation of forest management plans	- Citizens - Private entities & FUGs who possess forest areas	3 years	

What are the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Selenge Aimag?	What are the potential solutions?	Who is responsible for carrying out these solutions?	How long is needed?	What assistance is needed to improve capacity of forest bureaus / forest units?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest units / Forest bureaus - Forest agency & MNET-> Parliament 		

Discussion group 2 – Participants: Forest user groups

(People from Yuroo and Tushig *soum*-*Turmunkh*, *Bymbaakhuu*, *Doljinsuren*, *Enkhmaa*, *Jarglisaikhan*, *Dolgor*, and *Ganbold*)

1. Which stakeholders might be affected by REDD+ activities?

(eg, by changes to forest management)?

- Local citizens; FUGs; Forest units; Professional Forest Organizations; State Administrative Organizations; Private entities

2. What assistance do FUGs’ need to improve their capacity?

a. Now?

- Training for members of FUGs
- Establish small entrepreneurial assistance for preparation of tree seedlings
- Provide satellite imaging equipment for monitoring of FUGs’ forest areas, mobile and portable communication stations and forest fighting equipments
- Financial assistance and draw FUGs into doing foreign and national programmes and projects
- Provide assistance with techniques for tree nurseries
- Improve market access for selling fuel wood which are obtained by forest cleaning, and assistance to supply fuel wood to market.

b. In the future?

- Provide seeds and saplings of coniferous trees for planting and re-planting and creating new forest cover
- Use non-timber forest products, eg production of various products by using leaves, needles, tree-coals, and birch bark and supply to market.

Discussion group 3 – Participants: Forest user groups

(S.Dorlig, T.Burenjargal, B.Purevtseren, S.Bat-Ireedui, L.Jargal, G.Tumen-Ulzii, L.Bold-Ochir, P.Nyamdorj, Tuya, Batsukh, Oyungerel, P.Odgerel)

1. Drivers of the Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Selenge Aimag:

- Forest fires
- Insect attack
- Legal and illegal logging
- Poaching
- Lack of forest thinning and cleaning
- Natural disasters
- Pasture degradation
- Unsustainable use non-timber forest products
- Lack of thinking and aspirations to take loving care of environment and nature
- Lack of awareness raising and training.

2. Potential Solutions:

- To establish Information network among citizens and encouragement
- Regularly forest thinning and cleaning
- Permanent guarding in forest and rapid information
- To train members of FUGs methods and activities on wipe out forest insects
- To make negotiation and develop contract with herders
- Make amendment to the Forest Law about sustainable using of NTFPs.

3. What assistances need for FUGs' capacities?

- Establishment of FUGs' Association
- Improve financial capacities of the FUGs
- To train and qualify FUGs members
- Provide some equipment
- To create a new web-site among FUGs to connect them.

Discussion group 4 - Forest user groups "Bayan Mongol" (Rich Mongolian)

(Ch.Altantuya, Gankhuayag, D.Sukhee, N.Bolortuya, Oyun, Buyantogtokh, Nyaamdorj, Jigjid, Enkhjargal)

1. What are the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Selenge Aimag?

- Unsustainable forest use

- Forest fire
- Pasture degradation
- Insects attack
- Mining activities (inadequate of restoration)
- Dried up water in river
- Global warming.

Potential Solutions:

1. To improve conservation activities:
 - a. Improved monitoring and patrolling
 - b. Increased participation and involvement of each members of the FUGs
 - c. Raise responsibility of the members of FUGs.
2. To assist all citizens who have concern for their mother country by:
 - a. Organizing various events such as workshops, meetings, etc.,
 - b. Awareness raising
 - c. Distributing handouts, manuals and etc.
3. Give instructions and guidelines on forest fire fighting regularly
4. Decrease pasture degradation
 - a. Support farmers' entities politically, and provide encouragement using economic levers
 - b. FUGs (community groups) can protect their pasture areas.
5. Combating insects attack by:
 - a. Monitoring
 - b. Timely eradication.
6. Decrease use of fuel wood and determine alternative fuel sources.

a. Who will be responsible for these activities?

- All members of FUGs and their effective participation.

b. How long is needed?

- Nearly 3 years (during project implementation period).

1. What capacity-building assistances do FUG's need?

a. Now?

- Capacity training (professional training);
- Financial support.

b. In the future?

- Become an export country which sells wooden products
- Establish an association of FUGs
- REDD+ readiness support.

Annex D: Summary of consultations with Forest User Groups

Along with the Governor of Bag No 8, Mandal soum, Mr Batbayar Nergui, participants from three FUGs met with representatives from UNDP / UN-REDD Programme on 21 November 2011 to explain the role that their organisations play in forest management in their area. Bagh No 8 has a population of 1,000 people, with 300 families. There are four FUGs in Bagh No 8.

A summary of the information given by each of the FUGs is below:

1. Khurgalag FUG

Leader: Ms OyungereI

- Established: 31 March 2009. Initially established for 1 – 3 years, but now that it has run successfully and demonstrated its sustainability, it will now run for 10 years.
- Members: There are 21 families in this FUG, with 39 members.
- Area covered: 4,019 hectares. 85% is birch, with the remaining forest being larch.
- Before the FUG was established, there was much illegal logging. The FUG has been very successful in halting illegal logging and forest fires through the participation of all members.
- FUGs which are inactive for more than six months can be cancelled, which has occurred to 2 – 3 other FUGs.
- Each FUG has its own Constitution. Some of the rules are set down by the Ministry for Nature, Environment and Tourism, while other rules can be varied by agreement with all members.
- They do not receive any financial support from the government, but raise money through selling non-forest products. There has been no benefit-sharing yet as they have not had a profit to distribute.
- They have reported illegal logging to the Police which have resulted in the confiscation of logs, but have never received the 15% of the proceeds of crime as required under the Forest Law of 2007.

2. Baigal Eej FUG

Leader: Ms Oyunaa

- Established: 2007
- Area covered: 6,625 hectares (birch 35%; larch 57%; pine 3%)
- Membership: initially had 25 families; 43 members, but now have 15 families and 24 members.
- When FUG was established in 2007 there was a lot of illegal logging, but since then it has decreased significantly.

- Areas replanted are often eaten by livestock or insects. The only way to address overgrazing on forest edge is by raising-awareness of herder families and to work by consensus.
- They do not receive any financial assistance from the Government, but have received training from GIZ.
- They have sold some fuel wood to Ulaanbaatar in order to generate income for their FUG.

3. Ulziit Ovoo FUG

Leader: Ms Byambajav Choinkhor

- Area: 1,049 hectares (10% pine; 30% larch; 60% birch)
- Established: 2009
- In 2005, FUG planted 4,000 seedlings, but only 10% survived. In 2010 they planted 1,900 seedlings, of which 90% survived.
- Their area is very remote, being 18 kms from the Bagh centre, so they built a small watch cabin. A person from the FUG takes turn to stay in the cabin to carry out forest monitoring and enforcement activities, but this is very risky because they are so isolated. They need assistance to purchase communication equipment to help with safety (including protection against wolves), reporting forest fires, and when reporting forest law breaches. A forest fire was identified in April 2011, but there was no way of reporting it and it took 10 days to stop it completely.
- Would like more training on law enforcement and how to grow seedlings.