



TRUST FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

“Building Capacity in Conservation Biology to Protect Mongolia’s Natural Heritage”



(Participants, Day 1)

Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (NCEP)
November 19th-21st, 2010

Summary

Between the 19th and 21st November 2010, WCS Mongolia and the School of Biology and Biotechnology, National University of Mongolia held an event introducing the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (NCEP) to representatives from relevant NGOs, Academic Institutions, and the Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism. This event was split into two parts, one day in Ulaanbaatar: introducing NCEP globally, our project in Mongolia, and asking for input and criticism from participants, and two days at Hustai Nuruu National Park: working with a much smaller group to develop action plans for the completion of each of the four modules currently in development here, and discussing future activities for the next 12 months.

Objectives

Day 1 – Ulaanbaatar

Activities:

- Briefly introduce the work of WCS in Mongolia
- Briefly introduce The School of Biology and Biotechnology, NUM
- Introduce the work of AMNH, and specifically NCEP worldwide
- Explain our NCEP project here in Mongolia, what we set out to achieve, what we have done, how we intend to proceed
- Explain how our project (and PA management in general) relates to PoWPA obligations
- Introduce NCEP teaching philosophy
- Introduce content and relevance of each Module, including group discussion and input

By the end, participants will:

- Be familiar with NCEP, it's goals, educational philosophy, activities worldwide, and how it can be of use in Mongolia (including creation of teaching resources, promoting collaboration between stakeholders, and relevance to PoWPA obligations)
- Have a clear understanding of this project in general, and the roles of WCS, NUM, and AMNH
- Understand the content of the modules in development, and have had an opportunity to give suggestions for/criticisms of our plans.

Day 2/3 – Hustai Nuruu National Park

Activities:

- Discussion of each Module content, examples, exercises, etc
- Identification of how best to take each module from current state to full development, including key actions and rough timescale
- Discussion of how modules relate to current curriculum/syllabuses, and how completed modules would complement this
- Discussion of 'next steps', including adaptation of (completed) modules for spring workshop in Dornod

By the end, participants will:

- Have completed 4 short documents, detailing a 'roadmap' for completion of the 4 Modules, including what content needs to be produced, by whom, and over what timescale

- Understand how the completed modules can be adapted for the spring Dornod workshop, and have discussed basic objectives for this event
- Have discussed possible titles for future modules, once these current 4 have been finalized and tested

Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome and Introduction to the event
- The institutional context:
- *The American Museum of Natural History, and the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners*
 - *Wildlife Conservation Society*
 - *National University of Mongolia, School of Biology and Biotechnology*
- Coffee Break*
- 11:30 Enhancing Mongolia's capacity for conservation:
- Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), and Additional Tools
 - The NCEP teaching philosophy
- 12:40 *Lunch at Delhi Darbar Restaurant, Puma Hotel*
- 13:40 Exploring the NCEP teaching and training modules
- Field Skills and Law Enforcement
 - Wildlife Trade and Managing Wildlife Harvest for Sustainability
 - Wildlife Monitoring
 - Site Conservation Planning for Protected Areas
- Group exercise and discussion
1. What are some ways in which you could use these modules?
 2. Is the content of the module relevant to Mongolia?
 3. Can you think of additional Mongolian examples/case studies to include?
- Coffee Break*
- 16:30 Synthesis and conclusions

Participants

	Name	Organization	Position
1	James Tallant	WCS	Biologist/Event Organizer
2	Madhu Rao	WCS	NCEP Regional Technical Advisor
3	Ana Porzecanski	American Museum of Natural History	NCEP Director
4	Amanda Fine	WCS	Country Director
5	Odonchimeg	WCS	Specialist
6	Losloo	WCS	Specialist
7	Urtnasan M	Eastern Steppe Protected Area	
8	Tungalagtya	Nomadic Nature Conservation	Program Coordinator
9	Undrakh B	USAID Mongolia	Project Management Specialist
10	B Bayarmaa	Asia Development Bank	Environmental Specialist
11	N Batsaikhan	NUM School of Biology and Biotechnology	Professor
12	S shar	NUM School of Biology and Biotechnology	Professor
13	B Boldgiv	NUM School of Biology and Biotechnology	Professor
14	R Sungidmaa	NUM Ecology and Education Center	
15	Ch Uganbayar	Agricultural Uni. Biology Faculty	Professor
16	Ts Altangerel	South Gobi Gobi 3 Saikhan National Park	
17	E Dorjpagmaa	EcoAsia Environmental Institute	Teacher
18	Ch Sovdtsetseg		
19	A Batbaatar		
20	J Munkhbat	NUM Researcher	
21	P Dejidmaa	NUM Ecology and Education Center	
22	Kh Buyantishig	NUM Ecology and Education Center	
23	N Javjmaa	Natural Historical Museum	Researcher
24	S Saran	GTZ	
25	U Tuvshin	NUM	Masters Student
26	Ts Adiyasuren	EcoAsia Environmental Institute	President
27	Martin Pfeiffer	NUM Dept Ecology	Professor
28	T Purevsuren	Ministry of Nature Environment and Tourism	Officer
29	Chuck Howell	USAID Mongolia	Representative
30	Bakhitgul	The Asia Foundation, ESEC Project	Program Assistant
31	Tuvshintogtokh	Institute of Botany, MAS	Scientist
32	Erdenechimeg	People Centered Conservation	Environmental Officer
33	Emily Hynes	AYAD/NUM	Lecturer/Volunteer
34	Susan Russell	US Embassy	Environmental Officer
35	Henry Brown	Zoological Society of London	Project Coordinator
36	Robin Charpentier	American Center for Mongolian Studies	Resident Director
37	Onon Bayasgalan	Zorig Foundation	Project Officer

Day 1 Activities

Day 1 included participants from a variety of Academic Institutions, local and International NGOs, and Government staff. The morning began with introductory presentations from Dr Ana Porzecanski (introducing the American Museum of Natural History, and NCEP globally), Dr Amanda Fine (introducing the Wildlife Conservation Society and it's work in Mongolia), Dr Bazartseren Boldgiv (introducing the School of Biology and Biology and Biotechnology, National University of Mongolia), and James Tallant (introducing this NCEP project currently being undertaken by WCS and NUM). Dr Madhu Rao went on to demonstrate how this project relates to Mongolia's obligations under the Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), and introduced 'E-learning Modules' as a tool for strengthening capacity to implement PoWPA.

The afternoon included presentations from the four Faculty members leading the development of each of the four Modules currently being developed here. Dr Batsaikhan introduced 'Protecting Biodiversity: Field Skills and Law Enforcement', Dr Shar introduced 'Wildlife Trade and Managing Wildlife Harvest for Sustainability', Dr Boldgiv introduced 'Wildlife Monitoring', and Dr Terbish 'Site Conservation Planning for Protected Areas'. Their presentations included a rundown of the Module content, as well as an indication of the relevance of the topic to Mongolia as a nation, and Mongolian example species and location which will be used in the completed Modules.

The final part of the day's events split the audience into four groups, lead by the four core Faculty experts. These discussion groups set out to answer three key questions:

1. What are some ways in which you could use these modules?
2. Is the content of the module relevant to Mongolia?
3. Can you think of additional Mongolian examples/case studies to include?

Following their discussions, a representative from each group briefly presented their conclusions. These conclusions will be used by the four core Faculty experts in their work over the next two months, finalizing the four Modules.



Day 2/3 Activities

Following the first day's presentations and discussions, a small group departed from Ulaanbaatar for Hustai Nuruu National Park, a tourism and research center about 100km from Ulaanbaatar. Hustai was famously one of the sites of reintroduction for the Takhi (Przewalski's Horse) in 1992. The group included Batsaikhan, Shar, Boldgiv and Terbish from the National University of Mongolia, Madhu Rao, Odonchimeg, James Tallant and Byambajav from WCS, Ana Porzecanski from the American Museum of Natural History, and M Urnasan from the Eastern Steppe Protected Area Administration.

In addition to a short trip into the Park to view Takhi, Red Deer and various Bird species, the trip focused on detailed review and discussion of each of the four Modules. Topics covered included relevance of content, level of technical detail included, structure, possible case studies and examples, omissions, and sections which might be adapted from existing NCEP Modules from other countries. We produced for each Module a detailed list of actions through which the Module may be brought to completion, including a timeline. These primarily included actions for the Faculty experts, but also for James Tallant, Madhu Rao and Ana Porzecanski. These action plans may be found in Appendix 1.

In addition to discussing the Modules and developing plans for their completion, we discussed the possibility of the Faculty members participating in an event next spring in Dornod Aimag, teaching the completed Modules to in-service conservation professionals. Although the Faculty were concerned about availability, we discussed possible dates, and the possible involvement of the Technical and Technological College, Choibalsan City. No firm plans were made, although Faculty members expressed interest in involvement for this event.

