

## Description

The Onon-Balj basin is located at the southern edge of Siberian boreal coniferous forest and stretched into Daurian steppe. Situated at the juncture of two big ecosystems of central Asia, the area is unique with its natural formation and rich in biodiversity. Yet, the ecosystem is very fragile. The forest and steppe landscape, its composition and specific ecological functions, also serves as a home to a number of rare and endangered species in Mongolia and the globally endangered birds such as white-naped crane, hooded crane and great bustard and a number of aquatic Asian species. In addition to its nature beauty and picturesque areas, the basin is abundant with historically and culturally important areas, particularly the historical sites related to Chinggis Khan, the Mongolian Emperor and other historical, cultural, scientific and ecological significant areas.

The Onon-Balj was taken under the State protection in 2000 as a National Park, with 415,752 hectare area, to protect the biodiversity and its genetic bank and to develop environmentally friendly tourism based on natural and historical sites.



### Vision

The Onon-Balj National Park is the area for responsible tourism with undisturbed habitats for wildlife and birds of forest, fresh water and wetland and the rich historical and cultural heritages, where local communities enjoy a quality of life in harmony with nature.

# Scope

This management plan for 2011-2015 has been developed to protect and preserve specific natural zones and belts, rare and very rare wildlife species, historical and cultural sites and monuments, to study the evolution process, and to implement the activities addressed at sustainable use and conservation of natural resources through participation of relevant stakeholders.

# **Target biodiversity**

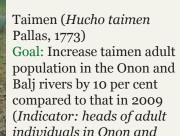
Target biodiversity, addressed in this management plan, has been identified in close consultation with local communities, scientists and researchers, and based on findings of research studies conducted in the National Park.

### **Target species**

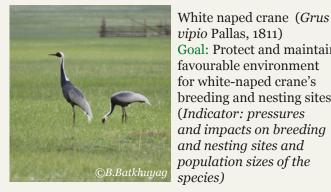


Red deer (Cervus elaphus Linnaeus, 1758) Goal: Increase the red deer population in the National Park and its buffer zone by 30 per cent and expand its

distribution area by 10 per cent by 2015 compared to that in 2010 (Indicator: heads per 1000 ha and expanded distribution area).



Balj rivers).



vipio Pallas, 1811) Goal: Protect and maintain favourable environment for white-naped crane's breeding and nesting sites (Indicator: pressures and impacts on breeding and nesting sites and population sizes of the species)

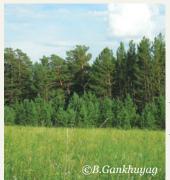


### **Target community**



Ereen Range Goal: Have 10 per cent of forested area of Ereen Nuruu restored by 2015 (Indicator: populations and distributions of forest ungulates and areas of restored forest resource areas)

### **Target ecosystems**



Pine forest Goal: Maintain the distribution of pine forest (Indicator: forest coverage, reserve and reforested area, fire cases & affected area (against the baseline data of forest management in 2005)

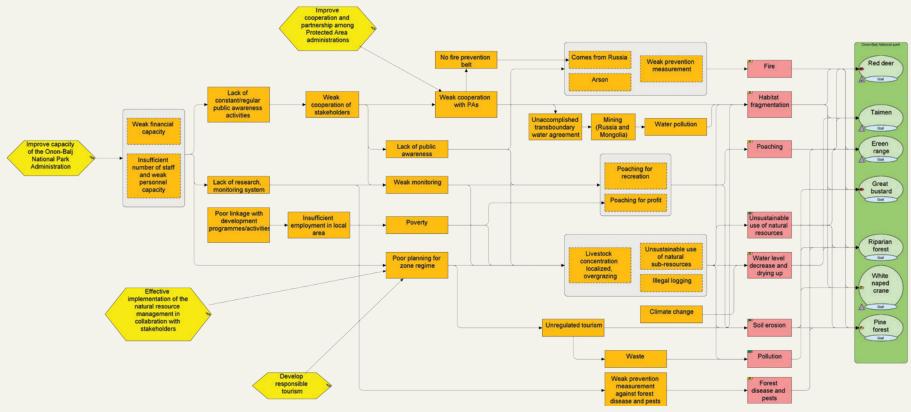


Riparian forest Goal: Implementation of sustainable floodplain forest management started by 2015 (Indicator: floodplain forest management practice & its structure, scope and intensity of negative *impacts*)



### Analysis based on the target biodiversity

The threats to the target biodiversity and their contributing factors have been identified and analyzed. Based on the analysis, four strategic actions have been developed to address pressing issues and reduce threats.



### Threat rates on target biodiversity

Threat rates on target blodiversity								
Threat	Red deer	Pine forest	Riparian forest	<b>Great bustard</b>	Taimen	White-naped crane	<b>Ereen Range</b>	Overall threat rate
Habitat fragmentation	High			Medium	High	Low		High
Poaching	Medium				High		Medium	Medium
Water level decrease and			High		High			High
drying up			High		High			High
Pollution			Medium					Low
Disease & pests		Medium	High				Medium	Medium
Unsustainable use of natural		Medium	High				Medium	Medium
resources							Medium	Medium
Soil erosion		Medium	Medium	Low		Low		Medium
Fire	High	High	Medium	Low		Medium	High	High
Rating of threats on biodiversity	High	Medium	High	Low	High	Low	Medium	High

### CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

### Strategy 1. Improve the capacity of the Onon-Balj National Park Administration

### **Objectives:**

- 1.1 Raise more funds, necessary for the implementation of management plan;
- 1.2 By 2012, special conservation regimes of OBNP will be developed and its compliance will be started.
- 1.3 By 2015, environmental crimes and violation cases will be reduced by 30 per cent.
- 1.4 Public awareness on environmental conservation will be increased by 30 per cent.
- 1.5 By 2015, database on OBNP biodiversity will be established.
- 1.6 The park administration human resource will be appropriately expanded and empowered.

## Strategy 2. Implement effectively natural resource management in collaboration with stakeholders

#### **Objectives:**

- 2.1 By 2015, the pastureland management plan will be implemented in the Park's Tourism and Limited Use Zone.
- 2.2 By 2015, 10 per cent of degraded forest area will be reforestated through improved management.

### Strategy 3. Develop responsible tourism

### **Objectives:**

- 3.1 By 2014, the responsible tourism will be implemented.
- 3.2 Participation of stakeholders in tourism development will be increased.

### Strategy 4. Improve cooperation and partnership among Protected Area administrations

### **Objectives:**

- 4.1 By 2015, numbers of fire outbreaks will be reduced by 50 per cent compared to the averages of 2006-2010.
- 4.2 Corridors and distribution areas of very rare and rare wildlife species in PA Buffer Zones will be adequately protected.
- 4.3 By 2015, cooperation agreement with Sokhondo Biosphere Reserve administration will be developed and implemented.
- 4.4 Monitoring system on mining impacts will be applied within the Buffer Zone.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The management plan has four strategic actions, 14 objectives and 97 proposed activities. The main approach to successfully implement the plan is to ensure efficient cooperation among respective stakeholders, including local authorities at all levels, buffer zone councils, law enforcement agencies, research and scientific institutions etc. The proposed activities are expected to be implemented through integration with the respective Soum Governors' Action Plans, Soum Development programmes, and other programme and plans.

For implementation of the proposed activities in the management plan, funding of totally MNT 549,505 million is required as per the preliminary budget estimation. However, MNT 313,693 million or 57% of the estimated budget will be funded by the public spending and incomes generated by the NP administration, and the remaining 43% of financial assistance shall be mobilized from relevant programmes, projects, international organizations, partner organizations, and national governmental organizations. OBNP will set up transparent supervision and management for donor contributions and the amounts donated will be reflected in annual budgets, where necessary cooperation agreements will be made with some of the organizations for solution of insufficient funding.

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regular monitoring will be carried out over the implementation of the management plan and performances of activities. The implementation of management plan will be assessed by the evaluation sheets designed for the assessment of PA management efficiency and financial sustainability that are internationally applied for assessment on semi-annual and annual basis. Findings and outputs of the assessments will be used as justifications for the budget revisions.

Monitoring and evaluation on implementation of management plan will be conducted at the following levels:

- 1. Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism;
- 2. OBNP administration;
- 3. Community based organizations;

Evaluation over the implementation of management plans for the Park and its buffer zone will be made through participation of relevant stakeholders and revisions to the management plan will be made based on the assessment of results and findings.