

Mongolia's Rangelands

Conserving Mongolia's rangelands through landscape-scale partnerships.



© Benjamin Buckland

The landscape. A globally important temperate rangeland landscape.

THE LANDSCAPE

Mongolia's rangelands form one of the world's largest remaining intact rangeland systems. They encompass a remarkable mosaic of grasslands, desert-steppe, forest-steppe, alpine meadows and boreal forests. Together, these ecosystems support critical ecological processes and some of the world's last remaining nomadic pastoral systems. Healthy rangelands also provide clean water, productive grazing lands, healthy soils, and connected habitats that sustain globally significant wildlife populations like khulan (*Equus hemionus*), Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*), and the world's second-largest population of the snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*).

THE CHALLENGE

Mongolia has made remarkable progress in expanding its protected area network. Yet many of its most iconic wildlife species, and the pastoral livelihoods that depend on healthy rangelands, rely on connected landscapes that extend far beyond protected area boundaries. At the same time, climate change, land degradation, mining and expanding infrastructure are placing increasing pressure on rangelands that support both biodiversity and pastoral livelihoods. Conserving these landscapes requires solutions that strengthen ecological connectivity, support local stewardship and work across entire multiple-use landscapes rather than individual protected areas.

WHERE WE WORK



Landscape-scale partnerships. Practical conservation models that can be adopted, financed and scaled nationally.

WCS Mongolia works with government, local communities, researchers and the private sector to conserve healthy ecosystems, maintain ecological connectivity and strengthen climate resilience across Mongolia's priority landscapes. Our approach combines science, locally led conservation and long-term partnerships to develop practical conservation models that can be adopted, financed and scaled nationally.

Our Approach

01 Healthy ecosystems

We strengthen protected area management, restore degraded forests, rangelands and freshwater ecosystems, and support community-led conservation beyond protected area boundaries to improve ecosystem health.

02 Connected landscapes

Using ecological research, GPS tracking and spatial planning, we help maintain wildlife corridors, improve infrastructure planning and support national policies that keep Mongolia's landscapes connected.

03 Climate-resilient communities

Working alongside herders and local government, we strengthen community governance, support locally led conservation and develop sustainable financing that helps communities adapt to climate change while conserving biodiversity.



3

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES

Working across the Gobi Steppe, Khangai Mountains and Western Mongolia to conserve some of Mongolia's most important rangeland ecosystems.

6

PROVINCES

Supporting national and local partners across multiple landscapes where conservation needs and development pressures are rapidly increasing.

Science, communities
& government

Bringing together ecological science, community leadership and government partnerships to develop conservation models that can be adopted and scaled nationally.

CASE STUDY

Women Climate Champions. Conservation driven by the people who know these landscapes best.

Across the Gobi Steppe, WCS is supporting a network of 25 Women Climate Champions who are leading locally driven action to strengthen community resilience to climate change. These women are restoring rangelands, promoting sustainable natural resource management, raising environmental awareness and developing practical solutions that benefit both pastoral livelihoods and biodiversity. As the network grows, they are sharing knowledge across communities and inspiring other communities and governments to take action.

“When women come together, change begins. When men stand beside us as allies, that change becomes stronger and more lasting for our communities and the landscapes we all depend on.”

- WOMEN CLIMATE CHAMPION, SOUTH GOBI

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Khash-Erdene Bayarsaikhan

Communication and Partnership Officer, WCS Mongolia Program

kbayarsaikhan@wcs.org

© Benjamin Buckland

