

National Environmental Fund of Mongolia
by Dr. Ts. Adyasuren, Minister of Nature and the Environment, Mongolia

I. History

The Environmental Fund of Mongolia was established in 1990 by a government resolution. The State Committee for Environmental Protection, which was the central government organization in charge of environmental protection, oversaw the establishment and disbursement of the fund.

II. Goals

The objectives of the fund include protection of the pristine nature of Mongolia, restoration of natural resources and endangered species, improving their habitat, and protecting them from natural disasters. A considerable amount is spent on nature conservation from the state budget and economic entities. The objective of the Environmental Fund is to financially support activities on public awareness, ecological education, nature conservation and natural resources restoration.

III. Legal Structure

The Ministry for Nature and the Environment, and central and local organizations under the Ministry, are in charge of the enforcement of environmental laws. According to the law, the regulation of the Environmental Fund is to be approved by the Cabinet. Its draft has already been developed.

IV. Governance/Administration

The governance of the fund will consist of the President and other members. In the future, the fund structure will also include environmental NGOs. Although there are 20 environmental NGOs operating in Mongolia, their activities are neither coordinated nor supported financially. Professional staff in charge of the fund will operate on their own.

V. Funding

Initial funding was contributed by economic entities and private people, as well as fines imposed due to overuse of natural resources and other inappropriate actions towards nature. The fund does not get money from the state budget, instead it delivers income to the state budget. Financial activities of the fund are controlled by a professional organization.

VI. Fundraising

There are currently no foreign funding agreements, although these remain a possibility. The support of private people and organizations willing to cooperate in the protection and restoration of natural resources is allowed under the law and will be encouraged.

Information on nature conservation activities, contributions from private individuals and other organizations, and violations of environmental laws will be gathered and revised, and necessary actions will be taken. For example, a person liable for losses to animals as a result of a violation of legislation on hunting, will reimburse for losses caused. In such cases, 20% of the amount of this reimbursement will be transferred to the Environmental Fund.

VII. Investment Policy

Many actions have been planned for future implementation, including studies on the impact of economic infrastructure, prevention from potential damage, and restoration of the damage. They will need relatively large amounts of financing.

VIII. Relation to National Environmental Plans

The fund supports the implementation of environmental plans such as the Environmental Action Plan, and National Plan of Actions to combat desertification in Mongolia.

IX. Criteria for Grants

Most of the recipients are NGOs and scientific organizations, and occasionally private individuals. The criteria involved include expected results and outputs.

The fund is spent on activities to manufacture harmless biofertilizer, reintroduce the Prezivalskii horse which is extinct in its home area, rescue the gazelle from natural disasters, regrow endangered species, improve environmental monitoring, improve public awareness through the mass media, conduct workshops, publish environmental legislation and red and white books, and financially support ecological education at all levels.

X. Disbursements to Date

By August 1996, the total income since the establishment of the fund, is US\$1,632,719 (946977,1 thousand tugrugs). Expenditure is US\$1,587,268 (920615,3 tugrugs) with a remainder of US\$45,450 (26361,2 thousand tugrugs). 580 equals US\$1.00.

XI. Monitoring and Evaluation System

The monitoring and evaluation system has not been developed.

XII. Auditing Requirements

General control is conducted by the inspector. The disbursement of the fund is controlled by the Head of the fund and the Minister's Council, while the activities of the fund are controlled by the Cabinet Ministry.

XIII. Computer Resources and Capabilities

The fund has one computer, and is connected to the Internet.

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