WWF in Altai-Sayan Ecoregion
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue № 13, July - September 2010

SPECIES

WWF Mongolia

Recent aerial census of Mongolian Saiga suggests the population increased to 8000 individuals

The southern part of the Mongolian Altai-Sayan eco-region is the last refuge of the Mongolian Saiga (Saiga borealis mongolica), an endemic subspecies of Saiga borealis. It is registered by IUCN as very rare and listed as such in the Mongolian Red Data Book. The species is extremely vulnerable to habitat competition with livestock, poaching and extreme natural disasters such as cold winters and drought. All three factors together reduced the population to about 800 animals in 2001/2002.

The status of the species improved significantly since then to about 5,000 animals, thanks to serious and efficient conservation efforts by WWF and other organizations, in particular the MAVA Foundation which provided crucial support for the period 2007/2008 to 2010 in the fields of law enforcement, mobilizing support for Saiga conservation from the local population and by decreasing pressure on the Saiga and its habitat by establishing livestock free rangelands in cooperation with local herders. A community based network of professional rangers and volunteers operates throughout the Saiga range, decline of the Saiga population was stopped and poaching eliminated in 2009. The population increased by 43 % to about 5,000 animals and extended its range by 10 % since 2007.

There are different numbers of population estimates on Mongolian Saiga. The Mongolian scientists made ground survey using transects throughout Saiga range and scientists from WCS used distance sampling in selected area. The population estimates of these different methods differs each other considerably. With additional funding support from MAVA the saiga aerial survey has been conducted for the first time in Mongolia using internationally well recognised method. The result and methodology of this aerial survey, 8016 individuals with 40 percent of confidence has been accepted by Mongolian and international Saiga experts. Based on this result the ground survey methodology for further population monitoring will be elaborated.

WWF Russia

Camera Trapping in Argut River Valley

Snow Leopard Camera Trapping project started in August in Argut Valley - the largest snow leopard distribution in Russia located in the very heart of Altai Mountains. Over the next six months (October 2010-March 2011), a pilot monitoring project of the Argut snow leopard population will take place in this region, thanks to support from WWF, UNDP/GEF, Panthera Foundation, Altai Assistance Project and The Altai Project.

With support from UNDP/GEF a seminar for local residents took place in the Argut Valley village of Inegen on August 23-28, 2010. Rodney Jackson of the Snow Leopard Conservancy (USA), a leading international snow leopard expert was invited to serve as the seminar’s instructor. During the training in Inegen, two local residents already involved in snow leopard population counts in the Argut River valley and Sergei Spitsyn, a rare species expert at Altaisky Nature Reserve, were trained in the use of digital Reconyx RapidFire and HyperFire cameras, as well as their implementation in snow leopard habitat and techniques for conducting camera-trapping population surveys for snow leopard.

The seminar took place in snow leopard habitat and concluded with the installation of the first seven cameras along the main transit routes of this rare predator. In October the number of camera traps, purchased with support from Panthera Foundation and the Altai Assistance Project, will be increased to twenty in the Argut Valley.

The project will be implemented by local Inegen residents under the leadership of experienced staff from Altaisky Nature Reserve. As a result of the project, the development of a method for estimating snow leopard populations in the Argut Basin is planned. The active participation of local residents in this project engages them in snow leopard protection as a part of their natural and cultural heritage.

Another project goal is the development of a unique camera-trapping ecotourism route in the Argut River valley as part of a transboundary tourism route known as “Land of the Snow Leopard”.

(See the next page)
On this route tourists can see not only unique landscapes along the Northern Chuisky and Katunsky Ridges, but they can also photograph local fauna, including the snow leopard, using camera traps. Local Inegen residents will organize the entire tour as part of Irbis-Ecotour’s tourism package, a project that has been underway in the Argut River valley for two years with support from WWF and UNDP/GEF. Finally, another planned aspect of this project is the establishment of a Snow Leopard Museum, meant to contain both scientific information about the species as well as the traditional knowledge of Altaian peoples about this charismatic predator of the high mountains. The museum will be a popular attraction not just for tourists traveling along the route, but also for local residents interested in protecting the snow leopard as a symbol of Altai.

**WWF Russia**

**Community inspection is established in Republic of Altai to take part in anti-poaching activities in the key territory for argali and snow leopard conservation**

Establishing of community inspection in Kosh–Agachsky Region near the Mongolian border is aimed to involve local indigenous people into nature conservation and rare species monitoring. Along with the government agencies the inspectors can remove illegal nets, snares and traps, help struggle poaching and conduct propaganda of nature conservation among the local villagers. They can monitor the situation and report to the law-enforcement agencies about the violations found. WWF provided the inspectors with the necessary equipment (cameras, means of communication, binoculars).

In July the representatives of nature conservation governmental organizations, law-enforcement agencies of Republic of Altai and the members of ten communities of indigenous people – *telengits* – gathered together to discuss the issues of public inspections. Ere–Chui – the Association of telengit communities was the organizer of the workshop supported by UNDP/GEF project.

At the workshop local people learned about the rights, obligation, duties and constraints of the public inspection, discussed the possibilities of the joined cooperation.

In whole the inspection is planned to consist of 15 *telengit* communities (30-35 inspectors), distributed all across Chuy valley and surrounding mountains. Every Telengit community is responsible for protection of its native mountain ranges and valleys and has real ability to decrease poaching in the habitats Argali and Snow Leopard - sacred animals for telengit people.

**WWF Mongolia**

**Conservation of Saiga antelope is discussed whole week**

The Saiga antelope’s habitat range locates in 5 countries, namely Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the delegates from those countries gathered in Mongolia to hold the second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Migratory Species’ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Saiga antelope from 7 to 10 September 2010 in Ulaanbaatar. The delegates discussed achievements and lessons learned since the first meeting was held and agree on future conservation measures, committed by signing the MoU. Organizing parties include the Secretariats of CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) and CITES (Convention on International Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna), Mongolian Government and WWF Mongolia.

Furthermore, the closing meeting of the Saiga Conservation Project’s first phase was held on 6th September. Stakeholders of both local and national levels have gathered to discuss on the achievements, lessons learned and further improvement suggestions. The participants concluded the main achievements of the project as:

- Poaching of Saiga and other large herbivores has stopped in year 3 throughout the Saiga range.
- The Saiga populations increased by 43% and extended its range by 10% to the south of Shargiin Gobi and to the north of the Durgaun steppe.
- Education and Awareness activities promote a positive attitude towards the Saiga and rally support for Saiga conservation among the local population.
- Training and awareness activities enhance environmentally friendly rangeland management practices.
- The first herder groups are operating and the first initiatives have started to reduce grazing pressure in critical habitats.
- First initiatives to set aside temporarily grazing free areas were implement
“Land of Snow Leopard” Ecotourism Project as a tool to protect Ibis and Argali by local communities

“Land of Snow Leopard” project is a joint initiative of WWF and UNDP/GEF Project to involve local communities of Altai, Tuva and Western Mongolia to ecotourism development in the habitats of Snow Leopard and Altai Argali. The project will develop a transboundary ecotourism route based on local communities in South-Eastern Altai, South-Western Tuva and Western Mongolia, so local people will be able to have good income from tourist.

One of the most attractive features of “Land of Snow Leopard” route is an excellent opportunity to watch wild animals – Altai argali, Siberian Ibex, wolves, marmots, raptors and water fowl. So, the protection of biodiversity by local communities will attract ecological tourists in the area and provide support for local people. Local people can work as tourist guides, souvenir makers and homestays providers. Due to WWF support last summer two ecotourist camps were established in Sailugem range by local communities of Telengit people. This area is the habitats of the largest Altai argali population on the border of Russia and Mongolia (about 500-600 individuals) and an excellent place to watch and film this endangered animals. In July 2010 the established camps opened the doors for the first visitors – WWF experts from Russia and Mongolia.

In September local people of Sailugem range participated in good training on tourist guiding and developed several routes for ecotourism excursions in argali and snow leopard habitats. The workshop was conducted by the trainers of Teaching Centre of Protected Areas in Republic of Altai organized with the support of WWF “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” Project. The Land of Snow Leopard route will start to operate next year conserving unique species of Altai-Sayan.

WWF Russia
Snow Leopard and Argali inspired the Masters of Felt Making of Republic of Altai

On September, 23 – 24 the workshop on felt making was organized by Fund of Sustainable Development of Altai (FSDA) with the support of UNDP/GEF Project in Kosh – Agach District. The main goal was not only to teach felt making but also inspire the locals to use the images of argali and snow leopard for the souvenirs.

In 2009 year the resurrecting of felt making in Republic of Altai became an important part of alternative livelihoods development programme for the people living close to protected areas for “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” project of WWF in Altai – Sayan Ecoregion. This kind of traditional craft has been almost forgotten in the area but it could be a good source of income for local people living in the habitats of rare species and a means of raising their livelihoods.

WWF concentrated on providing the local people with a chance to learn the new skills of felt making and experience share. “Marketing Commonwealth” festival in Mongolia was a starting point for Altai women to learn the basis of felt making. The number of new felt masters have been growing like a snow ball and at the moment there are about hundred of felt masters in Republic of Altai who continue teaching the other local people.

The workshops in September were organized only for the local people of three districts – the crucial for argali and snow leopard conservation. Revenue received from selling souvenirs will raise their income and help diminish illegal hunting and wild plants picking pressure. Besides the felt souvenirs will become an essential part of every camp of “Snow Leopard Land”.

Felt souvenirs are the famous, attractive and ecologically pure souvenirs popular all over the world. The resurrecting of felt making traditions is not only a chance for livelihoods growing but also the possibility to show the world cultural and natural heritage of Altai.

Snow Leopard – a Treasure of Tuva. WWF introduces Tuva journalists to the snow leopard (Tsagan Shibetu Ridge)

Altai – Sayan Project of WWF became a member of a large- scale project “Tos Ertine” (Nine Treasures) in Republic of Tuva which is aimed to identify nine the most precious places and events of Tuvin Land. WWF proposed a snow leopard as a real treasure of Tuva. To support snow leopard WWF organized a press-tour for local TV-companies and newspapers to South-Western Tuva – a real Land of Snow Leopard. Headed by the experts of Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Nature Reserves the journalists had a chance to visit the key habitat of a snow leopard in Tuva – a mysterious place of Tsagan-Shibetu Ridge near the border with Mongolia. Tsagan-Shibetu is one of the key snow leopard distributions in Altai-Sayan Ecoregion located in transboundary zone of Russia and Mongolia. The total number of snow leopards in Tsagan-Shibetu population is about 20 individuals.

The journalists spent three days in Tsagan-Shibetu Mountains, so that they could personally experience how the snow leopards live and survive in places which were once their hunting range and now they are settled by herders. They found out how the poachers capture leopard cubs to sell to private zoos of rich people. How, due to decrease of wild ungulates by
poachers irbis is forced to attack domestic livestock of local herders. The journalists learned more about conservation projects of WWF and other conservation groups to protect snow leopards: in 2007-2008 all livestock pens in snow leopard habitats were protected with metal mesh and number of livestock killed by snow leopards decreased 5-8 times; in 2010 an ecotourism project called “Land of Snow Leopard” started in South-Western Tuva in cooperation with herder communities; new cluster of Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Nature reserve is planned on Tsagan-Shibetu Ridge.

The visit to snow leopards was also annexed to the field work of The Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Science in Tsagan-Shibetu Ridge. This project was made possible by Government of Russian Federation in the frameworks of the Big Cat program devoted to wild cats study and conservation in Russia including an endangered snow leopard. The scientists have been working in Tsagan-Shibetu since June, and every day they carefully set up and check their camera traps to get pictures of irbis. Their goal is to try out the new methods of research of irbis populations in South-Eastern Tuva: using camera traps and DNA analysis for precise estimation of snow leopard number, satellite collars to learn more about irbis home range and movements. More than 40 camera traps had been set up on Tsagaan-Shibetu ridge but the only and the very first sharp image of the irbis was taken right on the day the journalists arrived. RECONIX camera took a picture in grayish fog, but a distinct silhouette of a snow leopard can be seen in profile: the irbis was moving along the path in early dusk.

Inspired and amazed the journalist went home.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT and COMMUNITY GROUPS

WWF Mongolia

Nature conservation through involving local residents and supporting their initiatives

WWF Mongolia aims to conserve the nature through strengthening local people on their self-development and livelihood improvement. Within this aim it supports herders’ community groups in many ways. Such example was a 3-day meeting on strengthening management team of herder community groups and evaluation of their activities was carried out in August 2010. Around 10 herder community groups from saiga range area have participated in the event and many of them were newly established. The participants shared their experience and lessons learned on group development, livelihood improvement options and conservation activities. A first draft of work plan for the coming year was elaborated in a participatory approach which will focus more on surface water resources. A volunteer ranger is agreed to be nominated within each community group.

Besides, the groups have held their annual Community Development Festival with participation and support of local authorities. Activities also made aware about the advantages of becoming community group member and encouraging them to join a community-based organization. During the festival, a trade exhibition was organized displaying various products made by herders. Other entertainment shows such as sport games contests, quiz and art show have been held as well. The festival enabled the local communities have in-depth knowledge and benefits as the key tool to accelerate the rural development.

Community groups trans-boundary cooperation

Members of some community groups of Uvs and Khovd provinces participated in the International Felt Festival 2010 which was held in Tuva, Russia. There were number of wool masters from many countries and provinces of Russia such as Abakan, Bashkorstan, Khakasia, Krasnoyarsk attending the event. Trade fair was displayed with various activities like wool processing, product making shows, competitions on several nominations and so on. Mongolian participants expressed their satisfaction as they have gained awards in 2 nominations, e.g. the best processed felt and best souvenir product. They were grateful to the organizers as they learned a lot from the masters of other countries. Contact with some of them is being maintained which would open new horizons to expand the existing market.

Afterwards, an advanced training on wool and felt products design was conducted with financial and logistical support of WWF Mongolia with totally 24 wool masters of community groups from Uvs and Khovd provinces have been trained and certified.

WWF Russia

WWF and Oxfam –GB joint project works on capacity building of local people in Tuva

Potential Business Trainers Workshop held in Kyzil City in Tuva in September was aimed to identify potential people willing and capable
to become the business trainers. Being involved as trainers into the workshops they will later share their knowledge with the local people who live in three key districts for snow leopard and argali conservation in Tuva. Teaching local people business basis will help them start their own business and raise the livelihood and moreover to distract them from poaching for food in this area which is the main reason for illegal hunting as reported in WWF – Oxfam survey last year.

The workshop was headed by the experts from the European part of Russia who used their own “Start Your Business” Programme to teach the new-comers the basis of training and training organization.

Eleven participants (mostly women) attended a 5 day-long full-time workshop learning the aspects of working with people, training and developing communicative skills. At the end of the meeting everyone had to prove the skills they had obtained. The participants had to conduct a part of a make-up training, demonstrate the use of exercises, elaborate their own methodological materials and so on. Six people with a high potential for becoming the professional trainers were identified.

**EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**WWF Russia**

«Forest Guards» for Protected Areas

WWF “Protected Areas for a Living Planet“ project supported «Gornaya Kolivan 2010» Summer Expedition in Altaisky Kray for the schoolchildren of three Siberian regions.

The main goal of the expedition was to involve schoolchildren into nature conservation process, teach them to study forest ecology. The schoolchildren and teachers learned a lot of interesting things about forest plants and animals, forest conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

It is not a coincidence that the camp of the expedition was located on the bank of the Belaya River that flows down the slopes of Tigireksky Ridge. This area will be included into the planning “Gornaya Kolivan” National Park in 2013. Altai - Sayan Programme of WWF supported the feasibility study for establishing of the National Park years ago. Preliminary “Gornaya Kolivan” was planned to be established as a Nature Park - the regional protected area. No doubt that the decision to raise the status up of the planning protected area up to the National Park - the federal level - will secure better finance and management of the area. The data gathered by this summer expedition will be used to delineate optimal borders for the park.

**Park of Flora and Fauna in Krasnoyarsk and WWF made Friends**

WWF in Altai – Sayan Ecoregion made friends with the Park of Flora and Fauna “Roev Ruchei”, Krasnoyarsk. Regional Office of WWF is located in Krasnoyars City - a big industrial centre of Siberia with population about one million dwellers. Visiting “Roev Ruchei” located in the outskirts of the city is a real breath of fresh air and a chance to observe wild animals for Krasnoyarsk people.

WWF and this beautiful park now have a programme of joined events aimed to promote rare species conservation and WWF goals in Altai-Sayan. This September was time for joint events - Crane Day and Tiger Day with a wide media coverage and more than 2000 visitors.

**WWF Mongolia**

Capacity building of Kids Clubs’ teachers

As part of our policy to promote conservation through education, we deem important to focus on the intellectual investment to the teachers and kids clubs. WWF Mongolia was pioneering in supporting and piloting ESD approach in the country since 2004 and at the present time there are 25 kids clubs running in the Altai-Sayan Mongolia part. Upon the initiative of aimag’s Education Department, the capacity building training of 4 schools club teachers of Uvs province was held late September 2010 which enabled the participants to share experiences. Innovative approaches and streamlining the clubs activities was the main focus of discussions. Through focusing on children’s extra-curricular activities, we hope that this effort targeted to children will bring about a gradual change in the mindset of parents when they notice the positive change of their children.
**WWF Mongolia**

**Sustainable financial mechanism of Protected Areas promoted through mass media**

Effective PA management requires an effective and coherent legal framework within which planning, establishment, enforcement and management can be implemented. The legal framework must contain national policies setting the framework of principles as well as roles and responsibilities including fixed targets and timelines. In Mongolia, the main policy document adopted by the Parliament is the National Programme of PA, dated back in 1998. A review of the implementation and status of this document has been conducted and the evaluation revealed the implementation quality was at “unsatisfactory or low quality” levels. To summarize, the evaluation found that the implementation of this National Programme focused too much on quantitative rather than qualitative dimensions. Main findings revealed that the laws surrounding financial mechanisms within PA management are unclear and do not give any incentives for effective financial and conservation management and the current Law on State Budget does not allow testing alternative cost effective management systems.

With the aim to gain public support in communicating this reality to the decision-makers through mass media, WWF Mongolia has facilitated a press trip to Khovsgol National Park, part of Altai-Sayan Mongolia and one of the most outstanding places in the country with highest number of local and foreign visitors. As journalists have observed, locals have number of opportunities to earn incomes from tourism in environmentally sound ways without causing negative impacts and damages on the environment. Unfortunately, no viable initiatives are created and supported in the current context.

As the follow-up of this press trip, a number of press coverage has been appeared, including TV programme, live debate and newspaper. The main message was to call the decision makers to ensure that entire legal framework concerning land use and natural resources supports biodiversity conservation and PA management to modernize current Law on Protected Areas. Moreover, there’s a need for finding effective alternatives nationally and internationally.

**Altai-Sayan PA administration staff start to undertake quality research activities at experts level**

A major research work has been carried out by the staff of five Altai-Sayan PA administrations in the Khasagt Khairkhan mountain range, a division of the Altai mountain system. Studies covered the distribution, habitat range and population patterns of rare and endangered species such as the Snow Leopard, Siberian Ibex, Red Deer and some avian species. As it was decided to establish a new administration to conserve the integrity of Khasagt Khairkhan Strictly Protected Area’s biodiversity, this research study is of key significance which would serve as baseline documentation for development of management plan.

The core feature of this research tour is that the PA administration staffs have carried out the research studies themselves without any technical backstopping at high professional level, which we truly believe to be the key outcome of WWF’s interventions. Furthermore, the participants have had a unique opportunity to get on-job training as they apply theoretical knowledge in practice. For the last three years WWF Mongolia made tremendous efforts to build the capacity of PA staff at all levels through series of training sessions, technical consultancy and research activities with regular feedbacks. Another major fish survey has been carried out in the Khar, Khar-Us, Khargas and Airag lakes, in the Great Lakes Depression of the Altai-Sayan Mongolia part. For the last two decades, only ad-hoc based surveys were conducted with no consistent database. This survey is featured by its on-job training for the PA staffs that are further expected to carry-out observations and establish reliable database on regular basis.

**WWF Russia**

**WWF elaborates the cadastre of the regional protected areas for Republic of Altai**

“Protected Areas for a Living Planet” Project in Altai – Sayan Ecoregion is working on the cadastre of protected areas of for Republic of Altai

According to the State Law of Russian Federation each region must have the cadastre of protected areas (PAs) including different data on PAs’ location, regime, land owners, sources of finance and so on.

The lack an officially approved and registered cadastre of PAs in Republic of Altai makes it hard for the government bodies to deal with the issues concerning land management and nature resources use on the territories of PAs.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and “PA4LP” Project of WWF in Altai – Sayan Ecoregion the experts of the State “Altai Regional Institute of Ecology” started elaboration of the regional cadastre for PAs.

The data of the cadastre will serve as a basis for decision-making in the field of nature use management and nature conservation. It will be taken into account while elaborating social and economic development plans of the territories, land
management schemes, town planning, carrying out ecological expertise and other issues concerning nature resources use and environmental impact.

For the government bodies the cadastre being elaborated will make it easier to make changes of nature objects’ regime, boundaries, area and categories. For the ordinary people having the cadastre will shorten the time for obtaining the inquiry answer from the official bodies.

Irina Onufrenya, the coordinator of PA4LP Project of WWF in Altai – Sayan Ecoregion “Cadastre will provide for easier and quality decision-making in the field of forest and land management and will strengthen government control over observance of environmental legislation. I’d like to stress that Republic of Altai is one of the pioneers among the regions of Russia. We will share this experience with the other regions”.

WWF Mongolia
Public voices heard by the parliament

Current development in Mongolia requires large-scale support of electricity. Hydropower is obviously a more sustainable source if well planned and implemented. However, some cases have shown that hydropower establishment can have fatal impact on river and lake ecosystems when filling of dams cuts of water supply to downstream placed lakes, wetlands and streams. Besides prioritizing the economical benefits, the most essential is to consider the environment impact when planning dam constructions. There’s a need for large scale watershed planning and implementation of sustainable water resource planning and practices. The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment provides a legal ground for public to monitor the planning and implementation process of hydro power plants. Hence, WWF Mongolia facilitated 2 times press trip to the Taishir HPP built on the Zavkhan river in the Western Mongolia, upon request by the Mongolian National Broadcaster, resulted in 2 hot documentary programmes stressing the impact of this huge construction on the livelihood of local communities and herders inhabiting downstream. In addition, numerous media coverage appeared in daily newspapers and attracted much of public attention. Consequently, the Parliament members questioned the Government on this specific issue of environmental impact of Taishir HPP and present scientifically-based actions to be further taken. We will further keep our eyes open as regards the Taishir dam issue.

River Basin Council’s News

The Buyant river basin council held a meeting on restoration of land use plan in Buyant river delta. There were representatives of aimag authority, land agencies, WWF, land users association, a private construction company and “Zuunii tunshlel” consortium which elaborated the construction map for new irrigation system. Participants discussed about construction work of new irrigation system and the needs to update the existing land use plan. The new irrigation system will serve for 2400 ha farming area enhancing sustainable and appropriate use of river waters. As a result, an MoU was signed between aimag governor, WWF and the local administration in charge of land affairs, construction, geodesy and cartography, which was an important step towards promoting the IWRM concept in the country.

Management plan approved

Integrated water management plan of Khar nuur-Khovd River was approved by the minister for Nature, Environment and Tourism by the resolution #279 dated September 6, 2010. An official hand over of the management plan was held by the minister to the head of related agencies such as Water Authority, Agency of Environment and Tourism of Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd and Uvs provinces, Environment and Natural Resources Agency and National Water Committee urging them to immediately start the implementation, thus making the advanced step on water issues.

Mobile awareness campaign organized
The River Basin Councils of Khovd and Buyant rivers have organized a mobile campaign in the upstream and underlying of the rivers. This was aimed at introducing new management plan in a comprehensive way, discussing its implementation action plans at local level, encouraging local residents to increase their participation in the management plan implementation. Art performance of famous actors was in the centre of campaign in order to attract locals. Various tools have been used in the campaign such as giving a talk with eye-catching presentations, holding discussions delivering messages by local celebrities. Public survey on water conservation issues was carried out during the campaign which reached about 400 people in total. This was an important event to make herders aware of their involvement in the sustainable water management of the river basin.

**Study tour conducted**

With financial and logistical support of WWF Mongolia, a group of farmers and land officers of Khovd and Bayan-Ulgii provinces made an experience sharing trip in irrigated farming places of central region of Mongolia. The team visited several places and met farmers who introduced appropriate irrigation techniques. During the trip, a Farming show has been organized where the best farming technologies and techniques were displayed that can easily be adapted in their places.

**TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION**

A consultative meeting on “Sustainable pastureland use issues in the mountainous areas of Altai-Sayan eco-region” was held in the Kuladinskii village of Karakuli National Park, located in the Ongudai region of Altai Republic late August 2010, attended by around 40 participants. Government delegates of Altai Republic, local authorities, representatives from academia, farmers as well as delegates from Mongolia, including WWF Mongolia staff and head of Altai Mountain PA administration have attended this meeting. Totally 19 presentations have been discussed in depth with major focus on the results of model survey on pastureland use of Kuladinskii village, carried out by Ecology Institute of Altai Republic. It was concluded by Mongolian delegates that the innovative approaches in the methodology used in the model survey can be applied in Mongolia to some extent.

**State prices rewarded to WWF Mongolia staff**

It is difficult to convey the spirit of our work and the pride of achieving results. We are proud that two of our staffs have been rewarded by State awards for their dedicated and hardworking efforts as well as their intellectual powers. Mr. Chimed-Ochir B., WWF Mongolia PO Rep has been awarded by the State third-rank prize for excellence in labour, entitled POLAR STAR and Mr. Chimeddorj B., Species officer – by the Medal for excellence in border security.

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