



# “Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk management of rural communities in Mongolia” (ADAPT) project





### General Introduction:

The project "Improving adaptive capacity and risk management of rural communities in Mongolia" (ADAPT) project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as the executing entity (implementing partner), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) as a key partner.

### Stakeholders:

- Target aimags and soums
- Respective government organizations
- NGOs, Private sector
- Herder groups (Cooperative, partnership, group)
- Herders

### PROJECT MAIN OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen the adaptive capacity of the herders dependent on the natural resources.

**Project implementing location:** 68 soums of Khovd, Zavkhan, Dornod, Sukhbaatar aimags.

**Project term:** 7 years during 2021-2027.



### Expected outcome:

Strengthen the resilience of resource-dependent herder communities in four provinces vulnerable to climate change.

### The project has following three outputs:



**1** Integrate climate information into land and water use planning at the national and sub-national levels



**2** Scaling up climate-resilient water and soil management practices for enhanced small scale herder resource management



**3** Build herder capacity to access markets for sustainably sourced, climate resilient livestock products



In 2022, a significant change took place, The Government House in the targeted four aimags as the main entity tasked with organizing tenders. This shift led to the establishment of agreements between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and local governments to ensure the successful implementation and organization of 29 tenders, with a total budget of 10.5 billion.

From 2022 to 2023, The main achievements were the implementation of 28 activities in 2022 and adaptation measures were implemented in 230 locations in 2023.

In order to evaluate the current progress of implementing adaptation measures within the project, a meeting was organized. This meeting brought together local herders, representatives from local government, NGOs, and the private sector. The agenda encompassed discussions on assessing the project's impact, defining beneficiaries and the project's scope, investigating further implementation areas (soums), and outlining ways to enhance the project. A consultancy team actively worked on defining implementation sites, defining mitigation measures for specific cases, and establishing resource user agreements for beneficiaries. The collective effort is aimed at amplifying the project's impacts.

The integration of climate change information into development plans was a key focus. Territory development plans for soums were specifically crafted to address urgent requirements, with a methodology tailored to incorporate climate data into the project. This method encompassed vulnerability studies on climate change within these plans. Using this developed methodology, 37 soums across targeted four aimags actively participated. Subsequently, soum territory plans were approved based on identified additional needs and considerations.

Support the climate-resilient livestock sector, ensure sustainable pasture utilization, manage livestock population effectively, and address the significance of ecosystem services within the livestock sector. The policy documents were developed to promote a more resilient and environmentally conscious approach to livestock management.



By 2030, the Mongolian president initiated the "Billion Tree" program aiming to plant a billion trees. To support this initiative, the project planted 441,000 trees across 710 hectares in 2023.

710 ha

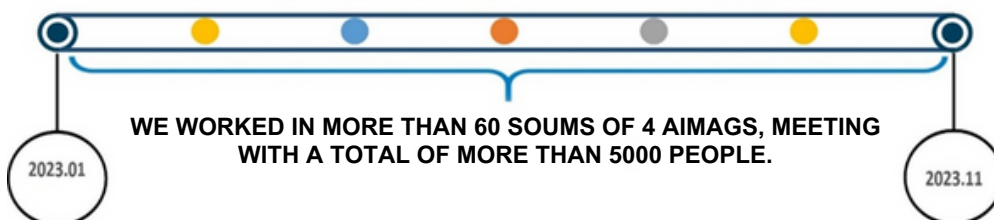


With the aim of increasing livestock productivity, enhancing the herder capacity to adapt the climate resilience and the diversification of livestock incomes, the project has implemented the livestock quality improvement and creation of nucleus herds by local breeds in the project aimags.

The first national investment fair represented by Government organizations such as the MET, MoFALI, GAVS, Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ACE), the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) of 4 project aimags, the authority, Veterinary division (VD), private veterinary units and representatives of herder organizations of 8 selected soums was organized to pilot a single point for livestock and livestock products, create a livestock value chain and raise investment from public, private sector, and other resources. The main result of this event was the establishment of a memorandum of understanding with the stakeholders to jointly implement the model/pilot activities to support herder organizations on the basis of Public-Private-Community Partnership (PPP) and commit to providing certain funds and take some responsibilities.



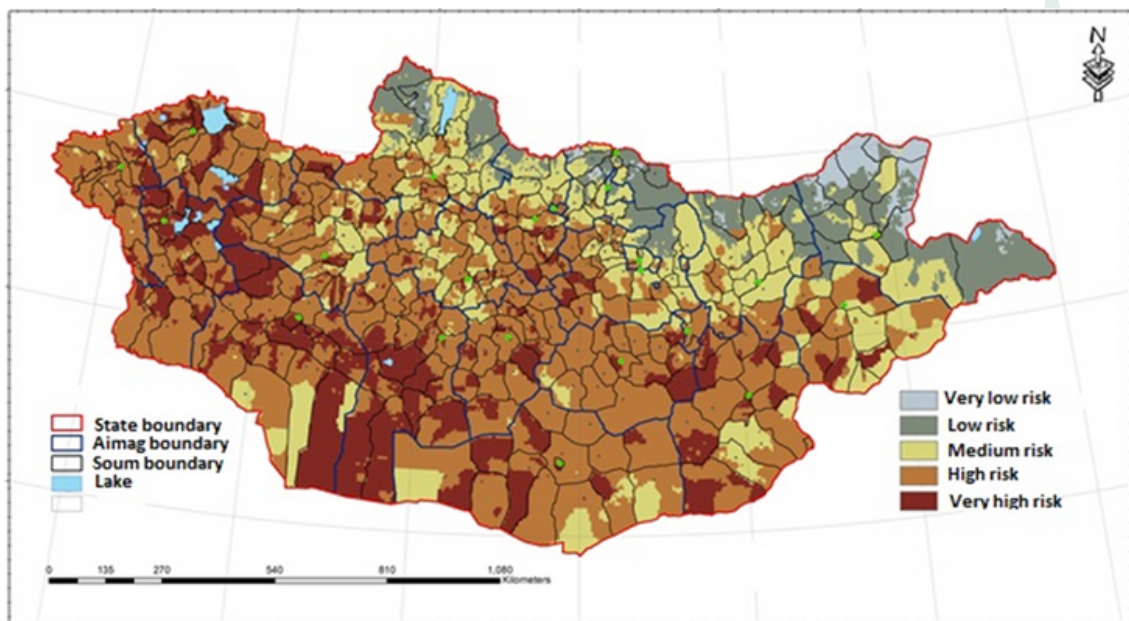
Comprehensive information delivery and mutual information exchange is being organized in the local areas to evaluate the progress of the project. Within this framework, we worked in more than 60 soums of 4 aimags, meeting with a total of more than 5000 people, such as local authorities, herders, cooperatives, and the private sector, and provided the information on project current activities.





## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT BY EACH OUTPUT:

**Output 1: integrate climate information into land and water use planning at the national and sub-national levels.** A guideline on climate risk-informed planning for land, water, and livestock management at national and local levels was developed. The impact on animal husbandry was measured by the drought risk map, and the impact on agriculture and agricultural water supply was measured by the aridity index in 2030 and 2050, and the climate risk indexes /CRI/ was determined for each soum of Mongolia. It was recommended that additional funding for climate risk mitigation and adaptation is required to be allocated for the vulnerable soums and aimags based on CRI.



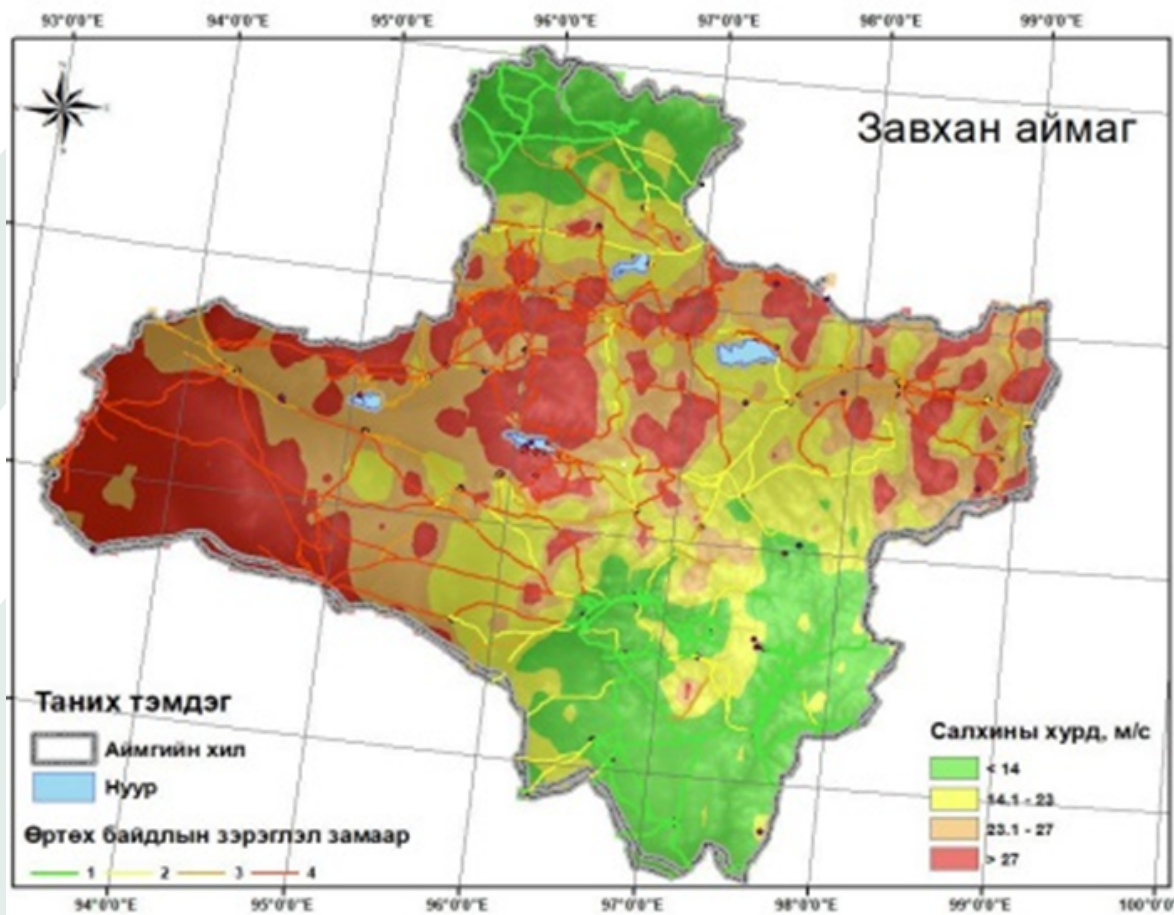


The analyzed the implementation and results of the current legal documents related to the livestock industry, laws of Mongolia, resolutions of the Parliament, policy documents, national programs, and livestock based on climate change and ecosystem services. As a result of the research work, policy solutions and alternatives for further implementation were suggested along with pasture protection, appropriate use of available pasture, improving herders' behavior and responsibility, establishing sustainable requirements for any state economic incentives and promotions provided for herders, creating economic incentives to improve the local system of veterinary services and potential markets to increase exports, and determining model proposals for their implementation. These prioritizing factors to lead to the sustainable livestock sector have all been reflected in the draft Strategic development plan on the livestock sector under the separate objective of developing Climate resilient and smart livestock sector.

Based on the climate change risk and vulnerability assessment and ranking, the adaptation sites were identified at 4 aimags and associated adaptation measures have been planned for 37 soums of 4 aimags and 8 river basin management plans.

Methodology for developing aimag land use plan and soum territorial development plan was updated to consider incorporating climate change impact, risk, and vulnerability in the process of land use planning and developing climate change adaptation measures.

## Impact forecasting (Hazard, exposure and vulnerability)



Manual on disaster risk management was developed for members of national and local councils for disaster risk reduction, officers in charge of disaster protection of ministries and agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. It provides opportunities for them to mainstream and plan disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities into their sectoral development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation through obtaining theoretical knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction.

Within an effort to strengthen national technical capacity, the ADAPT project supported the Government's initiation of the scholarship program to address the shortage of specialized engineers in meteorology and early warning sectors and provided funding of 15,000 USD for scholarship.

**The following capacity building trainings and workshops were organized in 2023:**

The training on climate change adaptation planning at the river basin level through strengthening integrated water resources management was organized on 30 January 2023 with the purpose of strengthening the capacity of river basin administrations. Over 60 participants from 21 river basin administrations attended the workshop and learned techniques about the reforestation of riparian areas of rivers, advantages and benefits of riparian areas reforestation, prioritizing springs for protection based on their vulnerability to climate change, and some techniques and lessons learned for environmentally friendly and nature-based solutions to protect springs, etc. RBA staff understood the importance of assessing climate change impact within their basins and incorporating climate change risk and vulnerability in the river basin management plan. Participants requested the project to establish man-made ponds /simple/ using natural materials, plan pasture wells appropriately, and how to do plantation and reforestation in riparian areas.



**TRAINING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING AT THE RIVER BASIN**

The workshop was organized on 28 February 2023 to present findings of the studies on legal and policy reforms for developing climate resilient and sustainable livestock sector and incorporating ecosystem service-based policy reforming. The findings were presented, and valuable comments were collected from representatives from MOFALI, MET, and the Land Agency and Water Agency. The main findings of policy transformation studies were reflected in the newly drafted strategic policy document on sustainable development of the livestock sector at the MOFALI. As a result of the workshop, the project representatives, including its consultants became members of the working group, established by the Minister's order of MOFALI to develop a strategic policy document for ensuring a sustainable livestock sector. The working group was headed by the Department of Strategic Policy and Planning at the MOFALI in accordance with the parliament permanent working group's decision# 02 of 2023. The draft strategic policy and plan for ensuring a sustainable livestock sector was completed by September 2023 and it includes an objective to develop a climate-resilient livestock sector that incorporates priority sub-objectives and actions, recommended by the project consultants.

On the initiative of Sainbuyangi Amarsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, Chairman of the National Climate Committee, and Chairman of the State Special Commission, a conference on "The current state of climate change - national policy for early warning: problems, solutions, and solutions" was organized jointly by Deputy Prime Minister's office, MET and the ADAPT project on 29 May 2023. Over 100 participants representing the government, private sector, local representatives, and academic institutions attended the conference, organized in the parliament building, and "Impact-based forecasting and forecasting-based planning research findings of the ADAPT project, were presented during the conference. The participants were given the key messages that recognize the importance of IBF /impact-based forecasting/ in supporting the initiative, preventing and overcoming climate change and various dangerous phenomena under the speech of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres' "Early warning for everyone".



**A CONFERENCE ON "THE CURRENT STATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE - NATIONAL POLICY FOR EARLY WARNING: PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS, AND SOLUTIONS"**



To address the problems of the hydrometeorological and environmental monitoring sector and to support the initiative of UN Secretary-General António Guterres "Early warning for everyone", a national conference of meteorologists was organized on 27 October 2023 in the Parliament building. The recommendations and decisions derived from the conference with an attendance of over 700 participants from 21 aimags highlighted the need to transform from traditional weather forecasting to impact-based forecasting as soon as possible to fulfill the needs of different users such as economic sectors of forecasting information. Moreover, they emphasized expanding the early warning system based on IBF for various types of natural disasters. Further, for application of IBF at national wide, several steps need to be taken as are approval of methodology by Scientific and technical committee at NAMEM, cooperation agreement to exchange data with ALAMGAC and organizing trainings for meteorological engineers at national wide.

Training on IBF was organized on 27 October 2023 for presenting the results of IBF study and receiving comments from climate and agricultural engineers and meteorologists from 21 aimags at NAMEM conference room. In total 176 participants attended the training, and several issues were discussed regarding the application of the IBF such as are role of local NAMEM offices in developing IBF map, gathering socio-economic information and data within their aimag, processing the collected data, the need for trainings for producing IBF map and need of ArcGIS training.

Policy recommendations and decision support policy options were developed for enabling climate-resilient animal husbandry, proper utilization of pastureland and decreasing the number of livestock, and recognizing the value of ecosystem services in the livestock sector. The policy recommendation was presented at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry among policy and decision-makers.





## **Output 2: scaling up climate-resilient land and water management practices for enhanced small-scale herder resource management.**

With Mongolia represented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) as the executing entity (implementing partner) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) as a key partner, this integrated proposal aligns fully with national priorities and supports Mongolia's adaptation and mitigation goals outlined in the nationally determined contribution (NDC). Specifically, the proposal aims to implement emissions reductions in the livestock sector through soil carbon sequestration and sustainable pasture management, covering a total of 3,220 hectares for pasture management and 48 fodder storage facilities. It also seeks to maintain the availability of water resources by protecting river riparian areas in critical catchment areas and their native ecosystems. This involves a total of 2,500 hectares for riparian reforestation and rehabilitation, protection of 88 natural springs, construction of 285 new engineering-designed wells, as well as the installation of 18 small-scale water harvesting structures.

To address the instability of livelihoods caused by climate change-induced natural disasters, the project focuses on implementing hay and pastureland protection and rehabilitation. This includes the construction and repair of 22 emergency fodder storage facilities, along with activities covering 427 hectares for hay and pasture management.

To enhance water availability and resources, the project includes the protection of 24 natural springs, the construction and repair of 32 new engineering-designed wells, and the installation of 6 small-scale water harvesting structures for 2023.

**Khovd aimag.** To preserve the headwaters and maintain the natural conditions of the upstream river, innovative technologies were utilized to enhance water availability and resources. As a result, 250 hectares of riparian reforestation activities were carried out in catchments highly vulnerable to climate change. A study revealed that these riparian reforestation areas were particularly sensitive to climate change, experiencing the loss of permafrost and complete destruction due to a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors. Riparian reforestation is expected to yield several positive outcomes in the future, including an increase in natural habitats, the creation of a favorable microclimate benefiting local wildlife, prevention of soil erosion and flooding, and enhancement of water quality and availability. As a result of the riparian reforestation activity, a total of 300 local people were employed for the project implementation.



**MYNGAD GAKHAIT BAG 15 HECTARES**



**JARGALANT BAATARKHAIRKHAN BAG 10 HECTARES**



**UYECNH TSAGAAN TUNGE BAG 30 HECTARES**



**MUST ULAANTOLGOI BAG 30 HECTARES**

**Zavkhan aimag.** In Zavkhan aimag, the planned activities included riparian reforestation covering 95 hectares and riparian forest rehabilitation across 60 hectares in six soums. However, due to the consolidation of riparian reforestation and riparian forest rehabilitation Terms of Reference (TOR), the work was not initiated during the spring and summer.



**10 HA RIPARIAN REFORESTATION IN IDER SOUM**



**Dornod aimag.** In 2023, the establishment of hay reserves on 60 hectares in Dornod Aimag and the construction of a small fodder warehouse at the community-based herder groups were successfully completed. The fodder storage facility was constructed in Choibalsan, Matad, and Bulgan soums. For the implementation, "Donj Urguu LLC" was selected, with a total budget of 239,487,813 tugrik. Following the order of the Dornod local governance, the fodder storage facility was handed over.



**FODDER STORAGE FACILITY IN  
1 BAGH DORNOD AIMAG**

**Zavkhan Aimag.** In 2023, plan was made for the establishment of fodder storage facilities in the soums of Aldarkhaan, Erdenekhairkhan, Numrug, Asgat, and Songino in Zavkhan Aimag. The selection of these soums were based on the urgent need to increase fodder storage facilities for emergency use. In the case of northern soums, there is higher snow coverage compared to the southern soums. Consequently, roads in high mountain ranges are closed, making it challenging to reach hay and fodder storage facilities in neighboring soums.



**ZAVKHAN AIMAG, NUMRUG SOUM,  
FODDER STORAGE FACILITY**

**Khovd Aimag.** The fodder storage facilities were planned for the following soums: Munkhkhairkhan, Duut, and Durgun in Khovd Aimag. Nomt Shiltgeen LLC was selected for the implementation and was successfully handed over to the local governance, achieving a 100% performance rating. As a result, the targeted soums have effectively prepared fodder storage for this year.

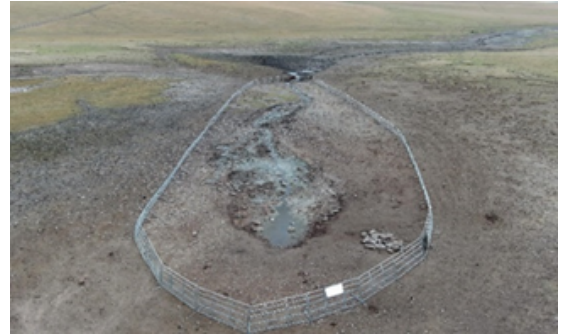


**KHOVD AIMAG, DUUT SOUM. BOSGO BAG AND  
DURGUN SOUM, UGUUMUR BAG,  
FODDER STORAGE FACILITY**



## Protection of Natural springs

**Dornod aimag.** A total of 6 natural springs were protected in the soums of Bayantumen, Gurvanzagal, Bulgan, Matad, and Khulunbuir in Dornod aimag. Donj Urguu LLC was selected for the implementation, achieving a 100% performance rating.



**Zavkhan province.** In 2023, a total of 6 natural springs were protected, and Geet LLC implemented the spring protection work with a 100% performance rate. The fencing was designed to prevent land degradation and ensure long-term quality.



**Sukhbaatar** Togoон Тумур Construction LLC was selected to implement the protection of the six natural springs with achieving 100 performance rate.



**Khovd province.** A total of 6 natural springs were protected in the following soums: Durgun, Tsetseg, Must, Darvi, Chandmani, and Jargalant in Khovd province. To support the water resources for the Ur Jims Khorshoo LLC riparian reforestation, the protection of Takhilt natural spring was implemented by Ur jims khorshoo with their budget.





**Output 3: Build herder capacity to access markets for sustainably sourced and climate-resilient livestock products:**

Trading of livestock and livestock originated products through a single point should be implemented in two soums of each project aimag.

This activity was supported by the project's Steering Committee which has approved the additional changes to annual work plan at its meeting on September 25, 2023.

Mobile livestock fence with loading and off loading platform to be used for animal health examination, classification and trading was manufactured and delivered to the selected soum's Governor office (8 soums in 4 project aimags received). Procurement of 8 refrigerated containers and other equipment for single point are under implementation.



The project supported the participation of the representatives of the Mongolian wool and cashmere sector into two international in order to support an access of the sustainable cashmere in the market. Each has a detailed report covering the objectives of the exhibition, the activities undertaken, and the results achieved.

The representatives of Govi Share holding company, Cashmere Holding LLC, Hanbogd LLC, Snow Fields LLC under the leadership of the Mongolian Wool and Cashmere Association (MWCA) have participated in the "Premiere vision Paris" international exhibition organized on July 4-6, 2023 in the field of textiles, clothing production and fashion in Paris, France.

Under the flagship of "Mongolian sustainable cashmere", the representatives of MoFALL, MWCA, Cashmere Holding LLC, Hanbogd LLC, Snow Fields LLC participated into "Fashion Coterie" exhibition in New York, USA, on 19-21 September, 2023.

Participation into these exhibitions provides the largest opportunity for large companies and professional designers to exchange experience, define fashion trends, and expand their business.



Under the consultancy assignment of “Improving the capacity of Herder producer organizations (HPOs), creating public-private-community partnerships (PPCP), and organizing investment fairs” all the planned activities are being implemented according to the TOR timeline. If some works are specified as below:

The first national investment fair was organized on 21 June 2023 represented by Government organizations such as the MET, MoFALI, GAVS, Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ACE), the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) of 4 project aimags, the authority, Veterinary division (VD), private veterinary units and representatives of herder organizations of 8 soums to implement the single point pilot.

The main result of this event was the establishment of a memorandum of understanding with the stakeholders to jointly implement the model/pilot activities to support herder organizations on the basis of Public-Private-Community Partnership (PPP) and commit to providing certain funds and take some responsibilities.

In addition, 3 local exhibitions/investment fairs and events were held to inform and empower the project stakeholders. The pilot investment exhibition of lamb meat production and sale was held in Shiluustei soum of Zavkhan aimag in 2022.

Training on “Feeding pregnant animals and fattening lambs” and an exhibition on best breeding livestock were in Darvi soum of Khovd aimag.

An exhibition and training was held on the topic "Proper use veterinary drugs and ensuring food safety" in Bayantumen soum, Dornod aimag. This activity has contributed to capacity building of herders and herders group members on veterinary practices and animal health issues.

Creation of nucleus herds by local breeds of livestock in 4 project aimags, documenting and promoting good are being successfully implemented. It is composed of 3 types of livestock (cattle, goat and sheep) with 8 different breeds.

In addition to this breeding animals, the livestock breeding unit of the selected soums has purchased professional tools such as livestock sorting fence, small livestock measuring scale, tape meter, weight and castration tools for large and small ruminants, livestock ear tagger, and etc with the project funds.



**“GEGEEN OVOOT NUTAG” HERDERS GROUP**



**FESTIVAL OF HUNDRED THOUSAND SHEEP**



**TRAINING OF VETERINARIANS AND SPECIALISTS OF BAYANTUMEN SOUM, DORNOD AIMAG.**



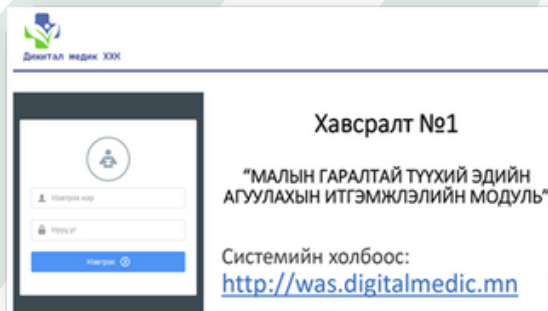
According to the MoFALI expert, it is commented that "The right strategy has been built to improve the quality of livestock. Because in the soums and aimags, in the past, only best breeding males were brought to other aimags and soums and bred with their local breeding females. As a result, the project bought the best quality breeding males together with their breeding females of that breed, which is a good experience for us to upscale it in the future.

Within the framework of the "Support the implementation of e-agriculture policy and strategic plan in order to increase sustainable supply and certification of meat and cashmere" conducted a training on the "Responsible nomads" standard of pastoral livestock husbandry good practices and established herder cooperatives in Dashbalbar and Tsagaan-Ovoo soums. Sustainable supply and certification of meat and cashmere is being increased in Dornod aimag. 100 tons sustainably sourced and certified cashmere is being exported from Dashbalbar soum through Snow fields LLC. 2,000 sheep and 50 cattle from Tsagaan-Ovoo soum have been sold at high price and herder earnings increased by 10-20%.

The following two types of work were included in the work plan for 2022, but their implementation took place in 2023. Performance of the or "Developing an accreditation module for warehouses of livestock raw materials" and system development process is 100% as of 1 October, 2023, and handover work is being completed with 81.2%.

The web system has been placed at [was.digitalmedic.mn](http://was.digitalmedic.mn) after the completion of the development work according to the system database structure, models, and general solution. The mobile application is ready to be uploaded to app and play store. Once submitted, the placement process will be completed. In this case, herder cooperatives with their own warehouses could get their warehouse credentials/certification electronically, eliminating the time-consuming process of creating paper documents to be certified whether their warehouses meet the quality and standards.

"Building a standard storage for livestock fiber raw materials" is 100% or the newly built storage for livestock fiber materials with outer fence was received by the soum sum herders group and cooperative can store their wool and cashmere in the warehouse that meets the requirement and able to sell them in the market.



THE WEB SYSTEM WAS "DIGITALMEDIC.MN"



**PROJECT MANAGEMENT, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION, SAFEGUARDING, AND GENDER.**



A full-length program titled “Noyon uuliin sahiul” was prepared in Zavkhan aimag, to introduce how increasing climate change impacts natural resources, such as melting the glaciers in the national protected areas in western Mongolia, the benefits of nature protection to the ecosystem and rural communities (herders) and disseminated through MNB and MNB world channel and social media platforms.



The high – quality 2 kid`s TV serial contents regarding catchment forestation, natural spring protection were produced and broadcasted through TV9 television, social channels including gogo.mn, yolo.mn: for teenagers and youth, maamuu.mn: for parents and guardians with young children and ADAPT project, Forest Agency, stakeholders and consultant`s pages.



The short videos regarding a good practice of the Bayantal pasture user's cooperative in Tsagaan-Ovoo soum, a herder from Tsagaan-Ovoo soum, Dornod aimag, and a herder from Must soum, Khovd aimag were produced and disseminated through social channels.

Each year, the international days are celebrated worldwide, including International Day of Rural Women, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, International Day against Desertification, World Climate Change Day, and World Water Day. On these occasions, we shared compelling stories and relevant posters that shed light on the impact of climate change on nomadic herders, with a particular focus on female-headed herder households, and how they are adapting to & mitigating climate-induced challenges by taking climate resilience actions.

## ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: BUILDING RESILIENCE AMONG ZAVKHAN PROVINCE HERDERS

The poster displays a wide, open landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a caravan of camels is being led by a herder. Two QR codes are positioned in the lower-left area of the poster, likely linking to more information or resources related to the project.



The leaflet has been prepared and disseminated through social channels to raise awareness about the crucial role and participation of women herders among public and supporting the activities of herder organizations, ensuring sustainable production, and the proper use and protection of natural resources.



The content regarding the promotion of Mongolian sustainable cashmere and the Mongolian Noble Fiber certification towards the international market is currently in process. The goal of this assignment is to convey a clear message about Mongolian cashmere encompassing its nature of cashmere, its characteristics, color, quality, and standards to international market.



- The work on producing television episodes and short videos focusing on the 6-year adaptation plan (by encompassing innovative solutions such as methodology for site selection) covering aspects of climate change risk /vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures implemented in 4 target aimags selected soums is under development.
- The assignment on producing documentary film covering before and after impacts from Catchment area reforestation activity and campaign on raising awareness raising activities emphasizing socio-economic and ecological advantages of catchment reforestation activity to target group including local government officials, forest units, river basin authorities, herder, herders' organization, and to public is under procurement.

The dissemination of project knowledge is being shared through [www.gcf-rural.mn](http://www.gcf-rural.mn), the ADAPT PROJECT Facebook page, and various social channels of stakeholders. As of the last 28 days of November, the ADAPT PROJECT Facebook page boasts a following of 2.6K, with posts reaching 11 056, post engagement 2727. Over the past 3 months, a total of 70 posts have been published and distributed on the page.

"Ecosystem Value", "Livestock Policy Reform", "Disaster Risk Management" manuals, "Climate change risk /vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures" report and handout on adaptation measures in target aimags have been prepared and distributed in print and online.





The climate change and youth forum was important to increase awareness and participation among children and teenagers on environment protection, climate change and early warning system and adaptive capacity to the youth through panel discussions, informative boards, trainings etc. The knowledge and information about climate change and adaptive capacity was introduced more than 200 children and youth from 10 countries who attended the forum.



The forum yielded important outcomes, notably in clarifying the extent of stakeholder engagement and youth involvement in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Subsequently, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism submitted a proposal to the Government of Mongolia to endorse the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action at a decision-making level. This move underscores the commitment to collective action against climate change and emphasizes the importance of children and youth in this endeavor.

The session on the “Biodiversity and Climate change Adaptation” aimed to discuss the topic of nature spring protection, pasture management, wild animal protection, forestation. The youth emphasized the need for adaptation measures and active involvement of youth in highlighting climate risk resilience.

The first ever Sustainable Cashmere Day-2023 event was organized jointly the Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform at UNDP in Mongolia with an aim to raise public awareness of sustainable cashmere, support collaboration and promote best practices of sustainable cashmere production, the event brought together the stakeholders of the cashmere sector such as herders, herder production organizations, producers, and academia. Stakeholders of the sector collaboratively discussed the topics such as climate adaptive livestock management, global requirements of the cashmere sector, challenges faced and further goals. Within the framework of the event, best herders, herder production organizations and best companies who are adopting sustainable practices in terms of energy, water and waste management in their operations as well as cooperating with herders under a long-term contract were recognized and awarded.

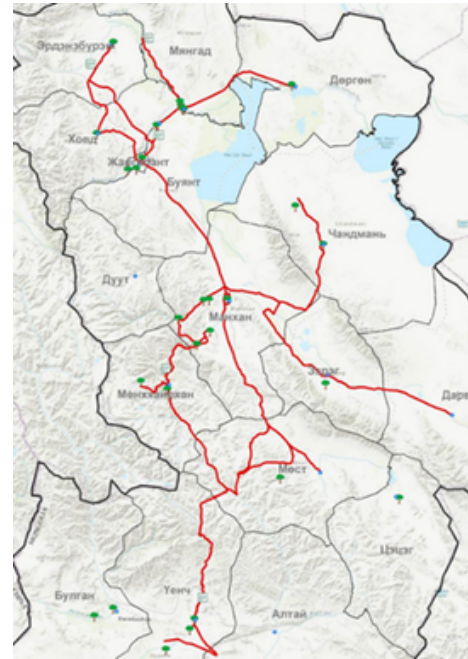


- The participants at the "Clean Air 2023" high-level conference received an introduction to the project's activities.
- The project's presentation and information were disseminated during the "INVEST KHOVD" forum held in January in Khovd aimag.



To evaluate and monitor the progress from 2022 to 2023, the field mission team worked in the field and made on-site decisions regarding the locations for riparian reforestation and forest rehabilitation.

According to the project framework, a total of 60.8 hectares of riparian reforestation were implemented, including 10 intervention sites in Khovd aimag in 2022. Furthermore, a total of 250 hectares of riparian reforestation and 125 hectares of riparian forest rehabilitation, protection of six natural springs, establishment, and construction of seven new water wells, preparation for natural disasters, allocation of 100 hectares for hay and fodder reserves, and construction of three small-scale water harvesting structures and three fodder storage facilities were implemented in Khovd aimag in 2023. A field mission was conducted, covering a total of 12 soums, including Chandmani, Zereg, Munkhkhairkhan, Must, Uyench, Jargalant, Buyant, Myngad, Khovd, Mankhan, Durgun, and Erdeneburen of Khovd aimag.



**FIELD MISSION ROUTE**

A meeting was held to assess the implementation of adaptation measures and discuss their benefits among various stakeholders, including local government officials, citizens, herders, herder organizations, and representatives from the private sector. The objective of the meeting was to define the scope of beneficiaries and identify the soums where further adaptation measures should be implemented in the targeted four aimags



The PIU is currently on a field trip to Zavkhan aimag to oversee the implementation of various activities related to riparian forestation, forest rehabilitation, forest natural regeneration, protecting springs, construction of hay and fodder storages, and pastureland management.



The field mission team had worked in a total of 13 soums including Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Kherlen, Bayan-Uul, Bayan-Ovoo, Tsagaan-Ovoo, Choibalsan, Bayandun, Bayantumen, Dashbalbar, Sergelen, Gurvanzagal, Matadof Dornod aimag. The project information was presented to a total of 178 people including local government, herders' cooperatives, private sector's representatives. Female participants comprise 40,4 percent. The team visited all sites for adaptation measures implemented in 2023 in put up the information.



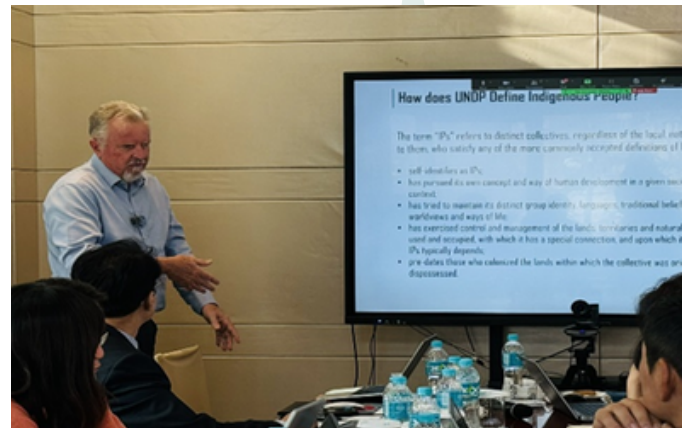


## Environmental and Social Management Plan:

BGM Distribution LLC, a national consultancy firm, was chosen as the contractor for the revision of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), and the development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). The contract with BGM Distribution LLC was officially signed on October 14, 2022.

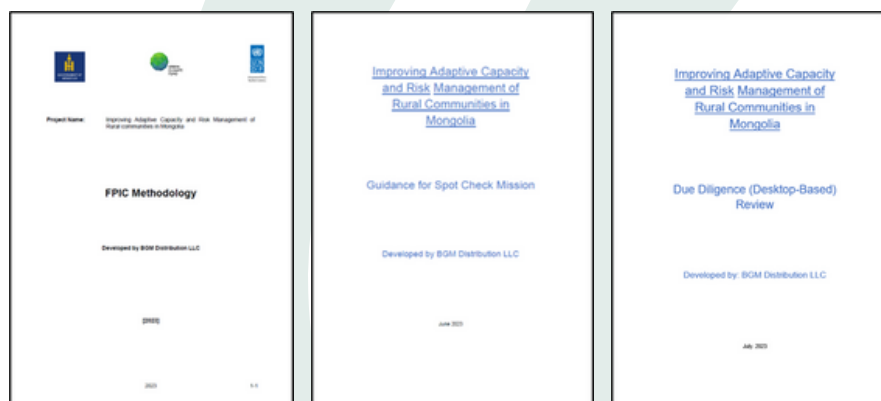
David Annandale, an international consultant, was appointed as the contractor for updating the SESP and developing Social Inclusion Plans (SIP) for four aimags. The contract with David Annandale was formally executed on January 27, 2023.

From November 7 to 9, 2023, David Annandale conducted formal training sessions for Project Implementation Units (PIUs), consultants, and local units on topics such as Social Inclusion Plans, UNDP Environment and Social Standard 6, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). On November 10, 2023, he held meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry, during which he presented the Social Participation Plan and FPIC.



In the course of this consultancy assignment, a thorough desktop-review was undertaken on the due diligence reports for 28 locations where adaptation measures were implemented in 2022. Additionally, spot-check missions were carried out at 8 selected locations. The findings from these reports have been incorporated into both the Environmental and Social Management Plan and the Social Inclusion Plans. The comprehensive document has been submitted to the Green Climate Fund for review and consideration.

Due diligence: In 2022, the PIU conducted pre-implementation consultations for adaptation measures at 28 locations. In June 2023, BGM Distribution LLC and PIU jointly analyzed these consultations, ensuring compliance with UNDP Environmental and Social Standard 6 and adhering to the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). In general, an examination of the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) criteria questionnaires reveals that the past stakeholder engagement and community consultation activities partially meet the FPIC requirements. Although a majority of the questions related to FPIC received consistent "positive" responses, there are specific gaps or deficiencies highlighted by negative responses to certain questions. This indicates areas where previous engagement activities may need improvement or further attention.



FPIC METHODOLOGY, GUIDANCE FOR SPOT-CHECK MISSION, AND DUE DILIGENCE REPORT



**Spot-check mission in 8 sites**

Out of the 28 locations where adaptation measures were implemented in 2022, 8 locations of 8 soums across 4 aimags was chosen. Collaboratively, BGM Distribution LLC and the local unit of the PIU conducted on-site work from July 1 to 5, 2023, in Zavkhan and Hovd aimags. Additionally, on-site work took place from August 8 to 14 in Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags. The objective of this assignment is to assess potential negative impacts and determine whether the locals have grievances related to the activities undertaken and/or the project. In this context, we asked certain questionnaire from stakeholders and bagh citizens to ascertain their perspectives on whether the preceding questionnaires aligned with the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements. Additionally, we conducted post-implementation monitoring to assess any adverse effects resulting from the project.

Based on the conclusion of the report, it can be seen that the FPIC requirements as well as the overall requirements for the project implementation have been fulfilled at varying levels.

For the case of Western Aimags, it is seen that the stakeholders (i.e., participants) indicated they possess a higher amount of general knowledge regarding the ADAPT project. Furthermore, the FPIC requirements are fulfilled to a above average level with majority of the participants agreeing that the individual elements asked by the “FPIC compliance questionnaires” are fulfilled.

On the other hand, stakeholders in the Eastern aimags indicate they posses a lower degree of knowledge regarding the ADAPT project compared to the western aimags. Furthermore, the participants of the Eastern aimag also indicate that the FPIC requirements are fulfilled only to a limited extent with a majority of the questions being answered negatively.



**COLLECTING FPIC QUESTIONNAIRES**

**1.FPIC in Dornod aimag:**

The PIU independently developed the FPIC format. Subsequently, in a collaborative effort, the PIU and BGM Distribution LLC conducted field missions to gather FPIC from local residents and herders. Project information was disseminated during this process. This field mission occurred from April 23 to May 3, 2023, covering 23 locations where measures were implemented in 2022 and are scheduled for implementation in 2023 across 11 soums in Dornod aimag.



**ORGANIZED CONSULTATION MEETING AND COLLECTED FPIC IN DORNOD AIMAG**



### FPIC in Khovd aimag:

David Annandale, along with UNDP Headquarters Social and Environmental Standards Technical Adviser Marine Gauthier and the PIU, collaborated to formulate procedures, methods, and forms for the systematic collection of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in Khovd aimag. Following this methodology, the local PIU in Khovd aimag conducted consultations and collected FPIC from June 27 to July 1, 2023 in Buyant, Bulgan, Uench, Erdeneburen, and Myangad soums of Khovd aimag.



### CONSULTATION MEETINGS AND FPIC IN 6 SOUMS OF KHOVD AIMAG

A total of 133 individuals (comprising 48 women and 85 men) actively participated in the FPIC consultation meeting and provided their consent. The methodology adhered to the following structured process, which includes:

- Contacted the local administration and compiled household surveys.
- The announcement of the meeting was distributed by relevant local experts and placed on the bulletin board of the Soum governor's office.
- An overview of the goals, objectives, activities, adaptation measures, potential positive and negative impacts of the project planned to be implemented in the region was presented at the FPIC consultation meeting.
- Disseminated information regarding the Grievance Redress Mechanism to address any complaints related to individuals' interests, relocation, or businesses associated with the adaptation activity.
- FPIC was introduced and consent was given by the participants.



**Gender: Collect sex/age-disaggregated data for any surveys or assessments including the needs assessment:**

As part of the Adapt project, a quality of life survey among herders was conducted, stratified by age and gender. The objective of this study was to assess the impact of current environmental climate change issues on the quality of life for 350 herder families in Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimags, along with perceptions of herders' understanding about climate change. The gender ratio among participants was similar.

To gauge the impact of climate change on herders' quality of life and measure satisfaction levels, it was crucial to delve into their knowledge and understanding of climate change, environmental issues, and the methods employed to address them. The limited awareness among herders about the implemented measures indicates a lack of understanding and knowledge concerning the project in this domain.

In the context of previous experience and reports on quality of life research in Mongolia, studies conducted in 2015 and 2021 have exclusively focused on women. However, comprehensive quality of life research for Mongolians as a whole or specifically for herder families has been lacking. Therefore, the initial step involves comparing the research on the quality of life of herders across various aimags and environmental zones. This comparative analysis is essential for informing future policy development.

Organize gender-specific trainings: To enhance the implementation of the Gender Action Plan within Green Climate Fund projects, the Mongolian Women's Fund collaborated with the Adapt project conducted a test/pilot training session on "Gender and Climate Change" for trainers in Baruun-Urt soum of Sukhbaatar aimag on May 29 and 30, 2023. A comprehensive manual was created, incorporating suggestions and recommendations submitted from representatives of the projects who participated in the training.



**Break gender stereotypes promoting non gender stereotypical roles by implementing 2 activities a year to include more men or women in non-typical roles of men:**

The terms of reference for "Conduct trainings on Climate change and gender equality and organizing gender stereotype break activities ensuring HPOs/RUGs participation in Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimag" is currently under review.

