



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Project name:

"Green Gold"- Pasture Eco-
system Management Project

Implementation period:

Main phase: 2004-2008
Transition phase: 2008-2009

Budget:

Main phase: CHF 4.5 million
Transition phase: CHF 1.7
million

Implemented by:

Mongolian Society for Range
Management (MSRM)

Target group:

Herders in northern, central
and western Mongolia

Key partners:

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Light Industry
Agency for Land Affairs,
Geodesy and Cartography
Research Institute of Animal
Husbandry

SDC's strategic objective:

To contribute to improved
and more secure livelihoods
of herders and ex-herders
in rural areas focusing on
improving sustainable use
and rehabilitation of natural
resources and supporting
ecologically-oriented social
and economic development.

Background

Pastureland is the backbone of Mongolian agriculture. At present, about 70 percent of pastureland is degraded in some form. Herders and rural people are 42 percent of total national population and 19 percent of GDP is produced by agricultural sector. In this regard, pastoral animal husbandry plays a vital role in Mongolia's social and economic development.

However, overgrazing, off-road driving, mining, global warming, low precipitation and lack of land management skills are causing more and more problems for the ranges in Mongolia. Thus, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Mongolia to provide the necessary amount of fodder for the existing number of livestock that is the main source of income for more than one third of Mongolia's population. To ensure sustainable use of rangeland, SDC implements 'Green Gold' – Pasture Ecosystem Management Project.

Main goal

To strengthen the self-reliance of poor and vulnerable herders and to improve their livelihoods through more productive and sustainable use of pastures in Mongolia

Objective 1

To test new technologies for pasture improvement and forage production to be adopted by herders

Activities and results:

"Green Gold" project has been conducting nine different scientific experiments on different ecological zones to develop appropriate technology for pasture improvement and forage production.

Identification of appropriate technologies

To test the pasture improvement and rehabilitation experiments on degraded pastures and abandoned cropland, the project tested methods like seasonal rotation, resting times, over-seeding and plating forage species, as well as increasing forage production. For example, resting of degraded pastures for 5 years led to an increase of species composition by 8-14 more species, vegetation cover by 24-90 percent and yields of the pasture 2-8 times, which shows the tendency towards rehabilitation.

The project tested planting of 32 native and 45 imported grass and legume species from the USA, Russia and China. Five of them were selected for their suitability for the rehabilitation of degraded pasturelands and abandoned cropland in two ecological zones: forest steppe and steppe under favourable rainfall.

Key stakeholders in pasture management agreed on a unified methodology for monitoring pastures. This methodology is aligned with international standards of rangeland health assessment and monitoring.

Capacity building

During 2005-2008, more than 30 students and young scientists were supported to attend professional trainings on rangeland management through scholarships on a competitive basis. They have formed a union of young range scientists to share their knowledge and experiences.

"Green Gold" has significantly supported the Research Institute for Animal Husbandry by enhancing the capacity of the Forage Evaluation Laboratory and by re-establishing the Pasture and Forage Department at the institute, which takes a leading role in project's scientific experiments.



Objective 2

To introduce co-management schemes for managing pastures involving herders, local government and other relevant stakeholders

Activities and results:

The project established organizational structures for managing pastures involving herders and introduced new ways of rotational grazing. This included forming and empowering Pasture User Groups (PUG), development, adoption and implementation of co-management plans jointly by herders, PUGs, local government and other players.



Herders making pasture use plan

Support of self-organization of herders

Using a bottom-up approach, an estimated 5000 herders have joined in more than 412 PUGs in 27 soums throughout the country from 2004 to 2009. All PUGs in a soum have further formed a Pasture Management Associations (NGO), which serves as an umbrella body. PUGs in each intervention soum developed their Soum Annual Land Management Plan. Organised in PUGs, herders were able to implement many joint activities, such as fencing and irrigating hay fields, establishing reserve pastures, digging and rehabilitating wells, participating in trainings and receiving access to bank loans. About 500 herder households have benefited from three fold increased forage and hay yield from 4000 ha of hay lands, thanks to their collaboration in PUGs.

Furthermore, rehabilitation of 21 engineering wells has provided access to 13,000 ha of new pasture land for about 300 herders households in different soums. More than 100 herder women were trained in wool handcrafting skills. With a loan obtained from Khaan Bank, PUGs in Tsengel and Telmen soums in Bayan-Ulgii aimag were able to rehabilitate an irrigation system for 7,980 ha of land and fencing a 3,000 ha hayfield.

Objective 3

To test and demonstrate an enabling legal environment for pasture improvement and co-management

Activities and results:

"Green Gold" Project makes a significant contribution to the policy dialogue on pastureland and participates actively in ongoing debates. It works to study implementation of the new land law, identifying legal obstacles, constraints and omissions and recommends necessary amendments.

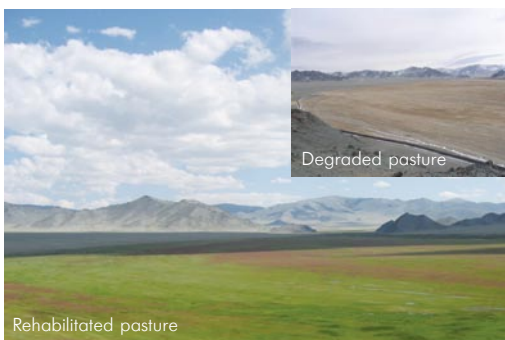
Support in creating favourable legal environment

The draft Pastureland Law is under discussion and revision by related stakeholders since 2007. Parliament appointed a working group to further develop the law and make amendments to the existing Law on Land and invited Green Gold to be a member.

The Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography elaborated the methodology for soum annual land management plans by the support of the project. This methodology introduced nationwide standards for herders' communities to participate in pastureland planning and management. There is now a sound base for herders' organisations, as they develop, to participate in pastureland planning in conjunction with the local administration officers throughout the country.



Haymaking on reserved land



Degraded pasture

Rehabilitated pasture



Project address:

"Green Gold" Project
Implementation Unit
Mongolian Society for Range
Management
Big Ring Rd - 49,
Micro-district 12,
Bayanzurkh district 12,
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Tel: +976 11 453747
Fax: +976 11 453757
E-mail: greengold@magicnet.mn
Web: www.greengold.mn

Contacts:

SDC Mongolia
"Tengeriin Tsag" Centre
Olympic Street 12, Khoroo 1,
Sukhbaatar District,
Ulaanbaatar
P.O. Box 37
Ulaanbaatar 210648
Mongolia

Tel: +976 11 331422 - 0
Fax: +976 11 331420
E-mail: ulaanbaatar@sdc.net
Web: www.sdc.mn