

# Law Enforcement for the Benefit of Nature and Biodiversity

Mongolia Office



Mongolia is rich in natural resources and has a relatively large proportion of protected areas. Also, the legislature for nature conservation is far-reaching. However, law enforcement is often insufficient due to plenty of factors. The Hanns Seidel Foundation Mongolia supports its improvement by building up the capacity of its authorities and officers.

### CHALLENGES

Mongolia is one of the most environmentally pristine countries with nomadic culture, and an economy that strongly depends on natural resources.



Raising awareness on the environment and its legal status is a key for nature conservation in Mongolia

Due to steady industrialization, the expansion of further economic sectors and the growing prosperity of the population, the pressure on natural resources (water, soil, air) has increased significantly since the early 2000s. In addition, the boom of the mining industry in Mongolia has driven illegal mining (known as ‘Ninjas’). Because of the relatively large number of protected areas (currently 21% of the country’s area) with different protection statuses (e.g. national parks, biosphere reserves, strictly protected areas),

it has become necessary to develop separate legal regulations and guidelines for their protection respectively for the use of land and resources within these areas.

Fortunately, the Mongolian government is increasingly demonstrating its commitment to nature conservation and its willingness to implement the UN Convention on the Preservation of Ecological Diversity and other UN SDGs: In recent years, environmental policy reforms have significantly improved the conditions for protecting Mongolian biodiversity and preserving the environment. However, there are still significant deficits and inconsistencies in enforcing environmental protection measures. For instance, gaps and overlaps of environmental laws and regulations, the lack of legal knowledge and skills of law enforcement authorities (e.g. ecological police officers, rangers, forensic inspectors), as well as a lack of public awareness on nature conservation and environmental crimes prevention, remain challenging tasks.

### APPROACHES

Based on 30 years of experience and collaborative project activities in Mongolia, the Hanns Seidel Foundation has started to promote the enforcement of environmental law in 2022. Since then, a series of workshops, seminars, conferences and study trips are provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia and other local partners in order to qualify ecological police officers, rangers and environmental forensic inspectors.

Public awareness campaigns are conducted to strengthen public acceptance of environmental law and regulations. Moreover, international experts are invited regularly to share their expertise with local partners on the relevant topics.

To make the conditions of the framework of the environmental regulation system clear, coherent, and in line with international standards, any deficits in environmental legislation are to be identified and fixed through workshops and discussions in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia.



HSF Mongolia supports exchanges among the government authorities, civil society and the public

Together with the Environmental Education Center of the National University of Mongolia the program “Engaging Youth in Nature - Environmental Laws” was recently implemented. The program aims to increase the awareness of the young generation about environmental laws as it demonstrates how to deal with natural resources sustainably. Also, strengthening the capacity of environmental law enforcement authorities and increasing public awareness about environmental laws, including the participation of residents in protecting nature and preventing environmental crimes is relevant to the enhancement of environmental regulations through effective law enforcement.

### APPROACHES

Through the interconnectivity of the project, a close and effective cooperation between Hanns Seidel Foundation, government ministries, law enforcement authorities and other relevant stakeholders, especially local partners, has already been formed. Thus, the project aims to further improve knowledge and common understanding of environmental

law enforcement and crime prevention in Mongolia, as well as to remedy deficits in Mongolian environmental regulations. The core of the project is to transfer the knowledge and the exchange between the target groups in Mongolia and Germany - within Mongolia and with other countries in the region - on environmental conservation and implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).\*



Awareness raising must start and has to be an elementary part of education from a young age

### OUR PARTNERS



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



THE COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN MONGOLIA



ECOLOGICAL POLICE



NATIONAL FORENSIC AGENCY OF MONGOLIA



THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Picture: Hanns Seidel Foundation Mongolia

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