PROJECT REPORT FOR THE

"WATER CONSERVATION AND THE TEN SPRINGS" PROJECT

PREPARED FOR:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REGIONAL

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Hub Small Grant # S-TH200-11GR-049

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"Water Conservation and the Ten Springs Conservation" Project Report

Project name: "Water Conservation and the Ten Springs Conservation" project
Project implementer: Mongolian American Scientific Research Center
Project sponsor: Regional Environmental Office in Bangkok, Thailand
Project term: 2011.05.01-2011.09.30 ; between May 1st and October 1st, 2011
Project site: Must soum and Munkh-Khairkhan soum of Khovd provinc of Mongolia

Preface

Global warming, climate change and general human-doing with regards to the environment has led to numerous environment problems, one of them being that Mongolian springs are becoming narrower and narrower each year that passes. From this one problem arise several others: desertification, overcrowding (both human and livestock), poverty, disappearance of local flora and fauna, etc. From all these issues, MonAme chose to focus on one that is both important and oftentimes neglected: water-conservation. In particular, we decided to undertake a project to protect springs in the far west of Mongolia, a region that is both remote and home to over 70-80% of the surface water of Mongolia.

We chose Must and Munkh-khairkhan soums of Khovd province. These two soums are located in a region of permanent snow-capped mountains. The rivers from these soums provide pure water to not only the nearby soums, but also even the west side of Mongolia. In addition, this section of Mongolia is located far from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, so it rarely has any opportunities to be in projects such as ours. From these soums we chose ten springs to protect (***See Addendum 1***). The following is our report on the project.

Project goals

This project is funded by the US State Department Regional Office In Bangkok. Its goal is to find and implement methods to reclaim and enhance water levels in Munkh-Khairkhan and Must soums (which are smaller administrative units in a province**).** For the purpose of this project, we have selected 5 springs from each soum, for a total of 10 springs. The efforts of this project will have multiple positive externalities, including but not limited to: increased water supply for greenery, the teaching of conservation methods to local herders and appropriate lessons on livestock grazing techniques. We envision that, ultimately, our goals would be able to join the efforts of other existing groups that seek to protect Mongolia's untouched nature and ecosystem.

Stages

The opening ceremony for OUR project was held in Khovd city on the 28th of July, 2011. At that time, we gave a lesson about how to protect springs and our environment to the "Young Eco students" group and encouraged them to follow our advice.

1. **Training :** (***See Addendum 1***).

- In the bus (Travel training)
- To the eco group students
- For herders and public
- For local managers
- For teachers
- For high school pupils
- For dormitory students

Training was organized under topics such as " Water is like a diamond", " Blue gold" and " Shortage of water". This strategy proved efficient as many people attended our lessons. The goal for us was to take action to protect the springs, and to do this efficiently we incorporated the trainings as much as possible.

2. **Action to Protect Springs:**

To increase the efficiency of the training, one spring at each soum was protected as a practice-run in order to show attendants how to protect the other springs properly. Herdsmen and civilians will protect the remaining 4 springs of each soum based on the knowledge they learned in the trainings and practice-run.

3. **To Attain Protected Springs:**

MonAme's staff traveled to the aforementioned soums of Khovd province on September 26 through September 30, 2011. We introduced the final activities of the project, estimated the results, and implemented a roadmap for the protection of the ten springs.

4. **Framework**

The project affected the population of about 6000 people (from 1436 households) and 223567 livestock in the soums. This project directly affected the two soums and indirectly affected three additional soums in Khovd province.

5. Approach

We advertised the "Water Conservation and the Ten Springs" project's purpose, process, and results in the news media. The following list sums up our activities in this regard:

- Mongolian National Broadcaster TV9, C1, Khovd, showed the opening ceremony of the project in July 2011.
- MonAme staff published an article in "Ecology' magazine in September, 2011. The article summarized our efforts and gave instructions on how to protect the springs.

  MonAme staff made a documentary film about our project in October of this year.
- Finally, we used our prepared handbook about water conservation and environmental protection throughout the entire process.

6. Basic Index

- These soums are near resources of pure water and lengthy rivers. However, the level of water resources reaching these soums has been decreasing year by year. The perpetual snows, frozen rivers and other springs have seen less water; this is almost certainly due to climate change and the overall effect of global warming. Astonishingly, some springs have already evaporated completely.
- Herders create over-crowding near springs because of the decreasing level of water in the neighboring springs.
- Water projects were never implemented in this area before because the soums are located far away from Ulaanbaatar
- The soums form a part of the Altai Soyonii Eco (high mountain) zone, which is home to many endangered animals listed in the world's Red Booklist.

7. Project outcome

- We protected several wells based on the knowledge obtained from the training
- Taught the appropriate method of fencing and protecting the wells without spoiling the pristine nature
- Increased the understanding of herdsman and civilians on how to protect the nature and water springs
- Students, herdsmen and local officials obtained a solid knowledge on nature and water protection
- 5 springs in each soum (for a total of 10 springs) were protected
- Before the project, water level in the springs was very low; some were even on the verge of drying out. After the project water level of the springs rose dramatically.
- Increases in the spring water fed the soum's river, which is the only source of water
- Lessened the overcrowding of livestock, created the opportunity to use grassland in its full extent
- Improved grassland water supply

8. Project Sustainability and Further Implementation

Spring protection was included in the soums local development plan, one spring in each bag will be protected annually. Local officials are aiming to make it a tradition. The outcome and benefit of the project was obvious, and it has become the basis for future projects in other soums and provinces.

9. Problems and Lessons Learned

In the region where we were working, infrastructure and road conditions are extremely poor. Therefore projects and programs are almost never implemented here. Problems faced during the "10 springs" project implementation were:

- Due to poor road conditions, it took 2 full days by car to get to the project site. This was somewhat of a waste of valuable time.

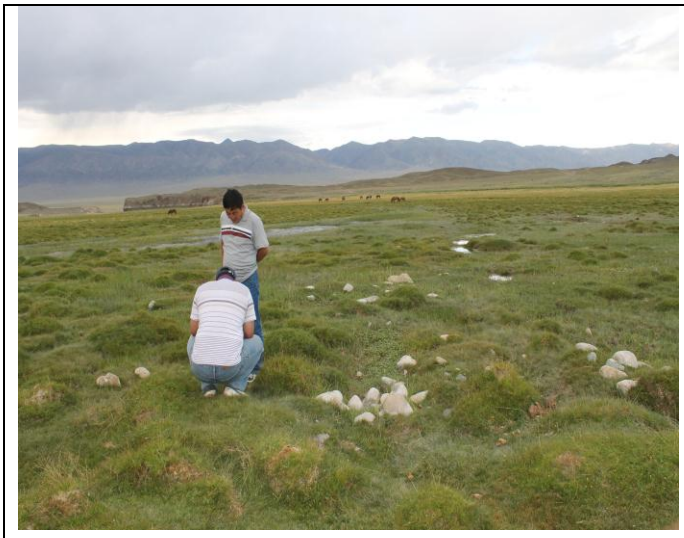
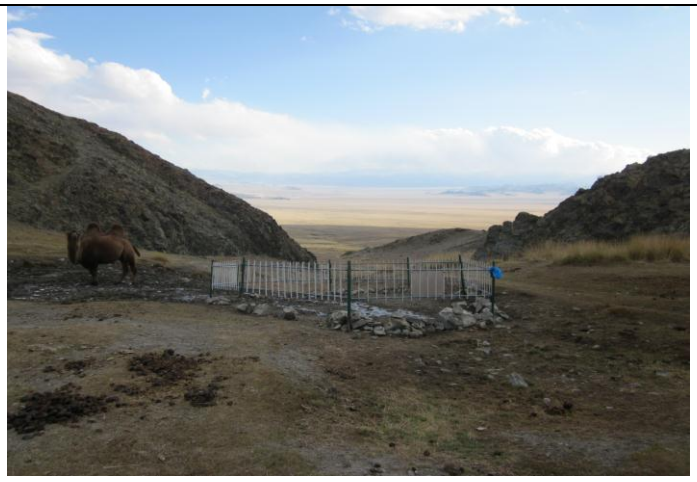
- There is no car route or any form public transportation to Ulaanbaatar (with the exception of the province center).

- There were blackouts during the trainings and conferences, which made it difficult to make scheduled work sessions on time etc. Because of such problems, results of some project activities were not as good as we had expected.

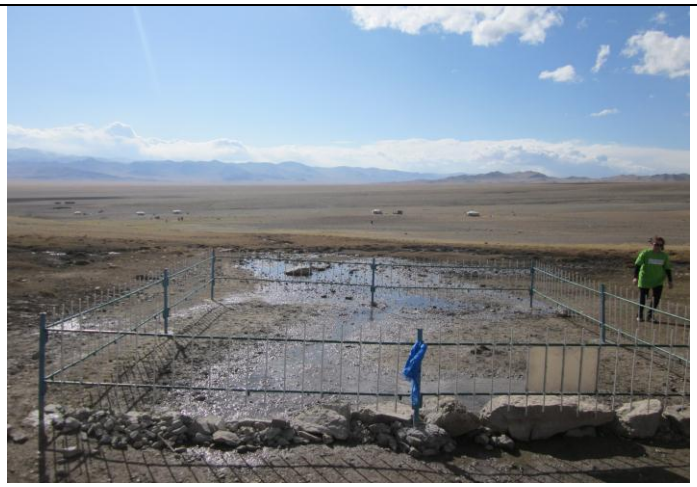
10. Conclusion

The project was launched during a hot summer and ended in a freezing cold winter. This is an important reminder that projects are not completed overnight, and must withstand different conditions. Thanks to the project, hundreds of people, livestock, wildlife and plants have enough water to subsist on. Civilians and youth of Munkh and Mustkhairkhan soums obtained the knowledge and skills to continue protecting the environment. Many of these youths learned from the trainings on various topics that were carried out with large numbers of people participating. Leaflets and handbooks were given to over 4000 families. Also, we are happy to have been able to help locations in Khovd province in far west of Mongolia, where few projects are able to reach. We developed 4 innovative methods of protecting springs without spoiling its pristine nature, including using: stone, wood, iron and a combination of materials for fences. Closure of the project occurred when MonAme research staff checked and accepted the project outcome. Though we are pleased with the outcome, we acknowledge that plenty of work still has to be done, not just in Khovd but in other vulnerable areas in Mongolia.

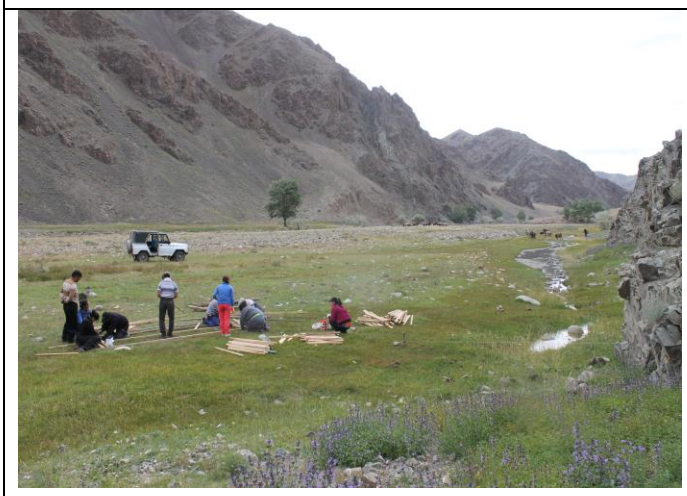
Addendum 1

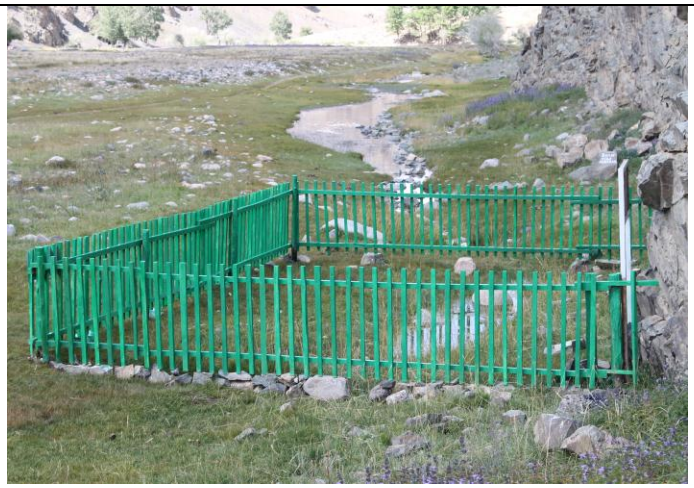
Springs (Before Project)	Protected Springs
	
"Khalzan Khoshuu" spring is situated in Tsetseg Gol *bag* of Must *soum*. Before the preservation attempt, the spring had dried up; there was almost no water. As a result of the implementation of the project and the preservation of the mouth of the spring, the flow of water has increased significantly and it runs much like a river now. This spring serves as the drinking water source for about 400 heads of livestock of over 20 families living in the area and over 80 people. Furthermore, it irrigates over 8000 pieces of trees and bushes such as aspen, white wicker, sea-buckthorn etc. "Khalzan Khoshuu" spring flows into Bort River.	
	

“Kholboo” spring is situated in Tsetseg Gol *bag* of Must *soum*. The camels were drinking from protected ” Kholboo” spring when camels rushing to the spring far away Mongolia has five kinds of domestic livestock. As a result of the conservation of “Kholboo” spring, the flow of water has increased and the herder families currently residing around “Balgatai”.



“El” spring is situated in Tsetseg Gol *bag* of Must *soum*. There were some springs almost dried but reclaimed and revived by implemented ”Water conservation the ten springs” project This is resource of pure water. This springs very important for the livelihoods of many people and livestock.

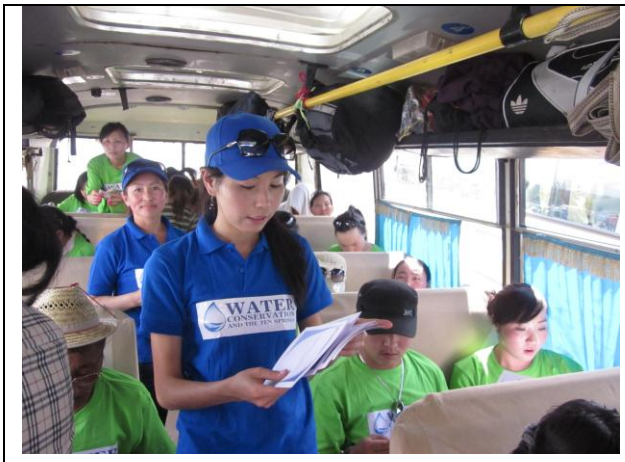


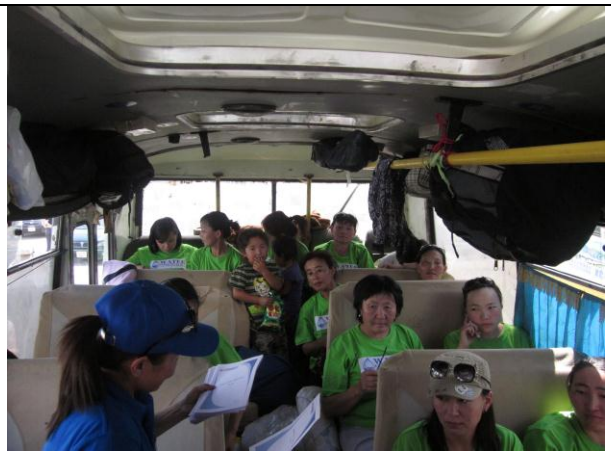


This spring name is “Munkhuun dav”, Bort bag, Munhk-Khairkhan soum. This spring never freezes during a year and increase the Senkher river’s outflow. In winter time it becomes unique resource of livelihood for herders, livestock and animals and others.

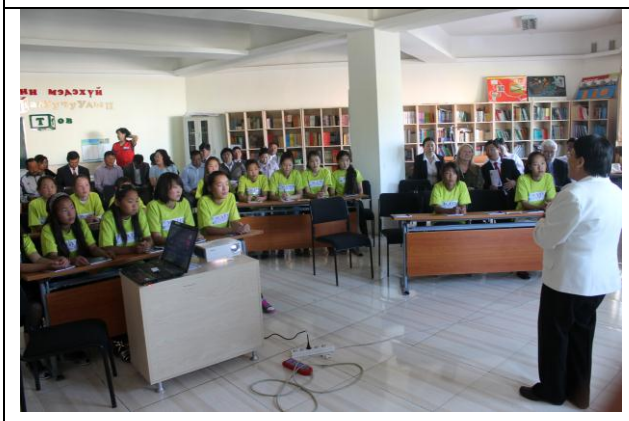
Addendum 2

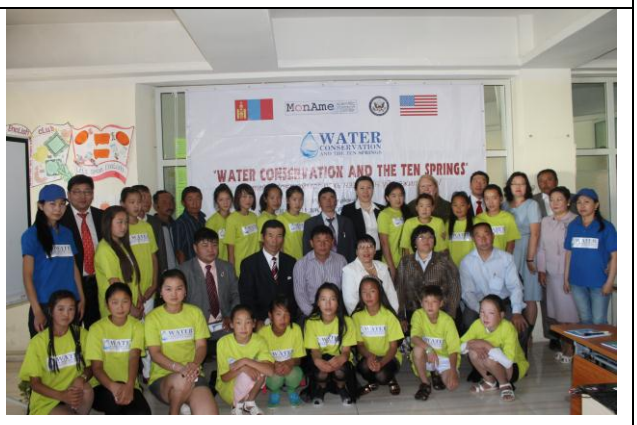
Training pictures



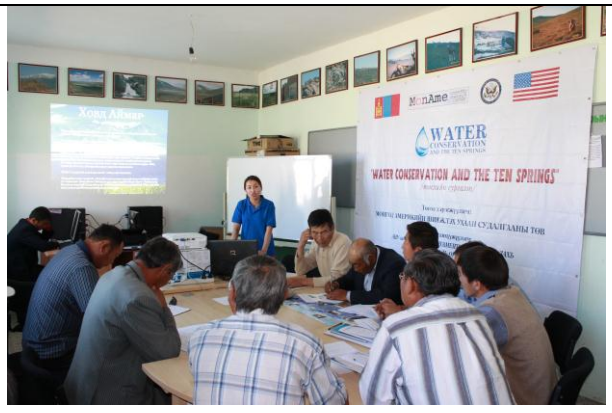


While our staff heading khovd province we carried out traing on the bus passengers.



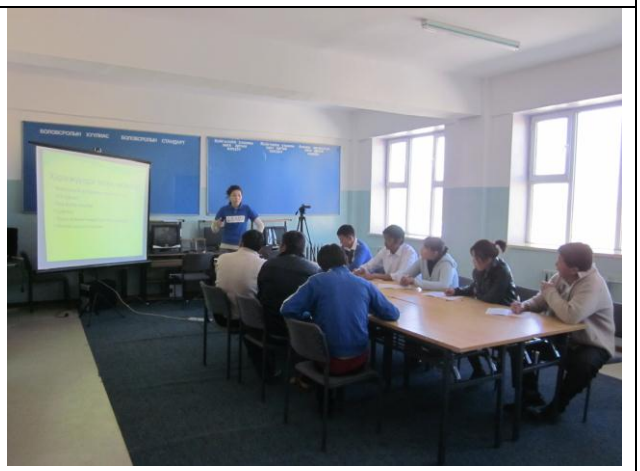


During opening ceremony..

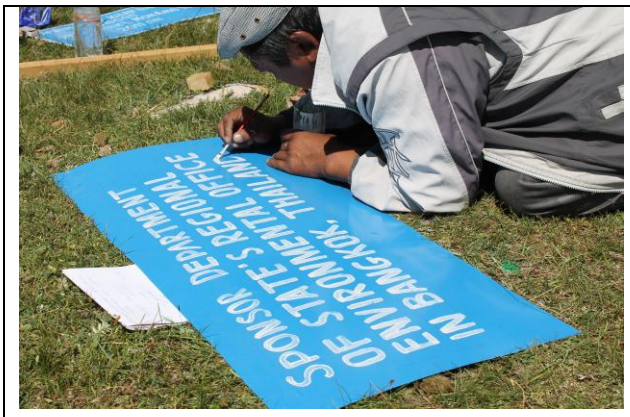


Training for herders , governors and staffs on Aug 15-16, in the Must soum, Khovd province.

Training for Herders , Governors and staffs on Aug 15-16, in the Munkhkhairkhan soum soum, Khovd province.



Training for the teachers and students on environmental protection.

 SPONSOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REGIONAL OFFICE ENVIRONMENTAL THAILAND IN BANGKOK	

Financial Report

"Mongolian American Scientific Research Center"

"Water conservation and the ten springs" project
Financial report

Nov.30.2011

№	Expenditure	Budget ($)	Paid / Project funding ($)	Paid / MonAme ($)	Total paid ($)	Variance ($)
1	**Personnel**	3,560.00	3,544.83		**3,544.83**	15.17
2	**Fringe Benefits**	391.60	373.50		**373.50**	18.10
3	**travel**	10,300.00	7,092.19	3,200.00	**10,292.19**	7.81
4	**Equipment**	2,310.00	2,523.00		**2,523.00**	(213.00)
5	**Supplies**	4,400.00	4,320.41		**4,320.41**	79.59
6	**Contractual**	3,787.00	3,929.35		**3,929.35**	(142.35)
7	**Other direct costs**	191.40	185.27		**185.27**	6.13
					-	-
	total	**24,940.00**	**21,968.55**	**3,200.00**	**25,168.55**	**(228.55)**
8	**indirect costs**	3,570.00	2,921.45	420.00	**3,341.45**	228.55
	Total costs	**28,510.00**	**24,890.00**	**3,620.00**	**28,510.00**	**0.00**
	Cost sharing	3,620.00		3,620.00	**3,620.00**	-

Accountant……/D.Dolgorsuren/