



The Nomadic Nature Conservation

Report of Conservation Workshops

Shinejinst and Bayan-Undur Soum Schools and Communities in Bayankhongor province



April 17-25, 2010

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Ulaanbaatar 2010

Duration: April 17-25, 2010

Schedule:

April 15 Pre-fieldwork preparation, in UB

April 16 Pre-fieldwork preparation, in UB

April 17 Departs UB to Bayankhongor

April 18 Bayankhongor-Shinejinst-Amarbuyant monastery-Shinejinst

April 19 Shinejinst soum

 12:00 Conservation workshop at school

 17:00 Meeting with students from Shuher zuil and Barjin eco clubs

April 20

 11:00 Shinejinst – Bayan-Undur soum

 15:00-17:00 Conservation workshop at school

 19:00-20:00 Conservation workshop for the community

April 21 Bayan-Undur-Shinejinst – Zuun mod – Zarman – Shinejinst

April 22 Workshops in Shinejinst

 10:30-13:00 Conservation workshop for the community

 15:30 Shinejinst - Bayankhongor

April 23 Bayankhongor - Uvurkhangai

April 24 Uvurkhangai

April 25 Uvurkhangai - Ulaanbaatar

Conservation workshop at Shinejinst soum school

Shinejinst soum has 9 year-secondary school with about 410 students.

Participants:

- About 160 students from 7-9th grades
- 21 teachers

Workshop process:

1. Made a list of wild animals, birds and plants in surrounding area of Shinejinst soum, using a participatory method
Animals: wild camel, Gobi bear, wild horse, wild ass, argali, ibex, snow leopard, marmot, rabbit, wolf, fox, rodents, white tail gazelle, black tail gazelle, snake and lizard.
Birds: vulture, snow cock, chukar partridge, ground jay, sand grouse, buzzard, falcon and owl
Plants: saxaul, onions, shrub, garagana, sweet grass and tamarisk,
2. Defined the current situation of the listed wildlife
3. Food web
4. Habitat loss game
5. Wolf dress-up
6. Their roles and values in eco system
7. Tracking the wild animals



Geology lesson



Food web



Habitat loss game



Wolf dress up

Meeting with Eco-club Students

We had discussion with the “Tasiin jiguur” “Barjin” and “Shuher zuil” eco-club students and the club teachers and shared information about environment conservation and ecology and geology.

“Tasiin ziguur” and “Shuher zuil” Eco-club members/students are planning to plant about 30 seabuckthorn trees near Zadgai (name of the place), getting the sprouts or seedlings from Bayantooroi for free of charge, , to protect spring and also they are planning to organize an excursion to Great Gobi National Park to get to know the park more in depth.

But “Barjin” Ecoclub members are planting the native trees like saxaul, elm and etc, when spring comes

Comments from Students:

They all liked and enjoyed the ecology lessons and they are willing to learn more lessons, so they can teach other fellow students and as well as the community later.

Luigarmaa, 8th grade student: She thought it was a good idea to organize workshop among the parents and adults about the wildlife conservation.

Choijsilsuren, 7th grade student: He loved geology lesson and he was interested in exploring the natural stones and mineral in the nature.

Jandagmaa, Eco-club teacher:

- First of all, I am very pleased that Erdene Mongol organized such a workshop in Shinejinst soum.
- We gained a lot of knowledge in such a short time and also liked the participatory and activity based methods.
- I liked the way facilitators encouraging and activating the students. It is an essential to get every community members involve to such a workshop. Because Shinejinst soum belongs to Great Gobi National Protected Area that is a home for many wildlife.
- Visual aids and materials used for the lessons are very attractive and interesting.
- As an isolated soum school, we have a shortage of lesson materials, visual aids and such. Therefore, I am asking if there is a possibility to provide such a trunk with needed contents to our school.

Dashchirev, Chief meteorologist:

- Kids loved the eco-conservation lessons. The biggest investment to human beings is the intellectual investment. It is far more valuable than giving money and I wish that you come again and organize such a workshop/training and very thankful to Erdene Mongol giving us the opportunity.



Wolf dress up



Meeting with eco-club members



Exchanging/sharing with students



Eco-club members

Workshop for Shinejinst Community Members

There were about 50 participants to this workshop, 4 from meteorological station, 4 from Urtiin bag, administration unit, 4 from 1st bag, 5 from 3rd bag, 3 teachers and the rest were the elders, government employees, and farmers' community members.

Lessons taught:

- Habitat loss game
- Puppet show, identifying certain species role and value in the eco-system
- Food web
- Wolf dress-up, importance of wolf being a member of the eco-system
- Art of tracking
- What happened here, wild life crime scene



Habitat loss game



Puppet show



Food web



What happened here?



What happened here/Wildlife crime scene

April 20, 2010

Bayan-Undur soum

Bayan-Undur Soum School has 612 students and 40 teachers.

School Director Ragchaa

Conservation Eco lessons participants:

- About 150 students from 8-9th grades
- 10 teachers.

Workshop process:

1. With students' participation, we listed the biodiversity species including wildlife and plants in surrounding areas of Bayan-Undur soum. Later, students defined the current situation of each species. We marked the species decreasing with down arrow, increasing with up arrow and the normal with right arrow. There were about 19 species of animals, 8 species of birds and 10 species of plants and trees listed.

Animals: wild camel, Gobi bear, wild horse, wild ass, argali, ibex, leopard, lynx, marmot, hedgehog, rabbit, wolf, fox, rodents, Gobi jerboa, ground squirrel, white tail gazelle, black tail gazelle and skunk.

Birds: eagle, snow cock, chukar partridge, ground jay, sand grouse, buzzard, falcon and owl

Plants: saxaul, onions, shrub, garagana, sweet grass,

2. Food web
3. Habitat loss game
4. Wolf dress-up
5. Wildlife role and value in the eco-system
6. Evolution
7. Art of tracking
8. What happened here, wildlife crime scene



Puppet show/Identifying the species' role and value in the eco-system



Evolution



Puppet show



Puppet show



Puppet show



Workshop for Bayan-Undur Community

Time: 19:00-21:00

Representing soum community, there were about 60 people including elders, teachers, herders, culture hall staff, and other government employees participated to the workshop.

Comments from Bayan-Undur community:

- Lessons were very interesting
- They were eager to get involved in conservation activities
- Parents are interested in educating their children in Geology and Ecology.

“Mazaalai or Gobi Bear” eco-club was established in 2004 with about 20 member students. They were given various CDs and CD player from “Protecting the Great Gobi biodiversity” project.

Amarzaya, School education manager, Bayan-Undur

- Teachers very much liked the lessons. The teaching methods, materials and visual aids can be used for other subjects, very practical and would like to get their own trunk with contents.



Habitat loss game



Sharing with community





Food web



Art of tracking



Habitat loss game

Conclusion

- We have taught 8 of the lessons from the Nomadic Nature Trunk Program, to Shinejinst and Bayan-Undur soum schools and communities, Bayankhongor province, using the participatory and activity based methods.
- There were about 50 community members, 160 students and 21 teachers participated to the workshop held in Shinejinst soum.
- And about 60 community members, 150 students and 10 school teachers involved the workshop in Bayan-Undur soum.
- All participants enjoyed the lessons, and were impressed.
- All participants liked the activity based/participatory method very much.
- The visual aids and materials used for the lessons/workshop were very attractive and interesting, they said.

Comments and Recommendations

- Because of the geographical isolation, Shinejinst and Bayan-Undur soum is not everybody's interest in terms of implementing the new projects. Local community members don't get much information and it was the first time they ever participated to conservation ecology workshop. The active participation of the community members during the workshop and the comments afterwards about how much they would like to get involved such workshop again, it proves that there is a need for such training and people are willing to educate themselves and to improve their knowledge.
- After the workshops held in above mentioned soum school students, there were only few students wanted to become geologists, therefore it is understood that it is because of their lack of knowledge in geology science. It is clear that geology related information awareness, geo-excursion need to be done to give more understanding re geology. Giving the opportunities to students who want to become geologists, it is appropriate to involve as many students as possible to geo-excursion.
- Either school teachers have a shortage of visual aids and materials needed for the subjects they teach. The participatory and activity based method is new to all teachers. If The Nomadic Nature Trunk Program to be implemented in Shinejinst and Bayan-Undur soums, it is not only limited to biology teachers, other teachers can also use the materials and contents in the trunk relating to their subjects and the activity based methods can be used in every subject.
- It is appropriate to specifically design a brand new trunk for geo-ecology education, based on the nomadic nature trunk model and train school teachers. If designing the curriculum participatory and activity based methods, it will make more interesting to the participants.

Biodiversity in Shinejinst and Bayan-Undur soum

	Biodiversity	Current situation
1	Argali	Decreased
2	Ibex	Decreased
3	Wild ass	Decreased
4	Wild horse	Increased
5	White tail gazelle	Decreased
6	Black tail gazelle	Decreased
7	Hedgehog	Decreased
8	Rabbit	Normal
9	Rodents	Increased
10	Ground squirrel	Increased
11	Gobi Jerboa	Normal
12	Grouse	Increased
13	Snow cock	Decreased
14	Falcon	Decreased
15	Eagle	Normal
16	Vulture	Normal
17	Bustard	Decreased
18	Gobi bear	Normal
19	Wolf	Increased
20	Snow leopard	Decreased
21	Lynx	Decreased
22	Fox	Normal
23	Corsak	Decreased
24	Saxaul	Decreased
25	Onion	Normal
26	Onion	Normal
27	Shrub-sp	Increased
28	Rhubarb	Normal
29	Garagana	Increased
30	Bulbous plant/goyo	Decreased
31	Sweet grass	Decreased
32	Хулангийн ундаа	Normal
33	Ботгон тавар	Normal