

Preparation of the nomination of the „Landscapes of Dauria“ to the UNESCO World Heritage List



The steppe landscapes of the Daursky Reserve in Russia.
(Photo by A. Butorin)

Background

The Daurian Steppes cover a wide territory lying within the borders of Mongolia and Russia. It is recognized as one of the 200 Global WWF ecoregions for its incredibly diverse and undisturbed steppe ecosystem. The area is one of the most intact Eurasian steppes.

The Daurian steppes is habitat for 98% of the world population of zeren. The wetlands of the ecoregion are habitat for many rare and endangered bird species. The territory is also a natural habitat for many endangered mammals such as Daurian hedgehog and Pallas's cat. Steppe territories of Mongolia and Russia are in fact a single natural area artificially divided by the frontiers of the countries. Therefore, only joint and well-coordinated efforts can guarantee that unique steppe ecosystems as well as endangered animal and plant species will be preserved.

Project

The main objective of the project was to prepare the joint transnational Russian-Mongolian nomination of the “Landscapes of Dauria” to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Russian part of this area consists of the territory of the Daursky State Biosphere Nature Reserve and its buffer zone and part of the Federal Nature Refuge “The Valley of Zeren”. The Mongolian part consists of the territory of Mongol-Daguur Strictly Protected Area with part of its buffer zone.

A Joint Russian-Mongolian working group of experts from the Daursky Reserve and Mongol-Daguur Strictly Protected Area as well as employees of Russian and Mongolian scientific and public organizations elaborated the nomination dossier during four working meetings in Russia, Mongolia and Germany. They also took part in two scientific field trips. The dossier was then approved by all competent authorities in Russia and Mongolia and submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre 31 January 2013. The “Landscapes of Dauria” were inscribed in the Mongolian Tentative List. Additionally, the booklet “Landscapes of Dauria - a potential serial transnational World Heritage Property” was published in English and disseminated to support the nomination processes.

- Target countries/region: Russian Federation, Mongolia
- Duration: 12/2011 – 05/2013
- Beneficiaries: Daursky Nature Reserve (Russia) and Mongol-Daguur Strictly Protected Area (Mongolia)
- Implementing organisation: Natural Heritage Protection Fund (Russia)
- Project number: FKZ 380 01 277