

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Feasibility study for the UNESCO World Heritage Nomination of the Eastern Mongolian Steppes



Eastern Mongolian Steppes

Source: Nika Malazonia

#### Background

The Mongolian Steppes largely remain in a natural condition. They continue to support the full assemblage of native species. At the same time, they provide an important living ground for the Mongolian people, practicing mobile pastoralism. Flora and fauna as well as the livelihoods of the local population are threatened by increasing resource extraction, transport infrastructure and overgrazing. The globally significant biodiversity of Mongolia requires the conservation of vast landscapes.

#### Project details

The overarching project objective is the long-term protection of the ecologically important steppes of Eastern Mongolia through their recognition as UNESCO World Heritage and thus a contribution to global biodiversity protection. The first step on this path was a joint feasibility study carried by German and Mongolian experts, in which they evaluated the prospects for a successful nomination. The study shows that the Eastern Mongolian steppes as a serial world heritage site, i.e. consisting of several individual areas, have great potential for fulfilling the criteria (ix) and (x) of the World Heritage Convention. The originally proposed five protected areas should be supplemented by four additional areas in order to better cover the diversity and biodiversity of the eastern Mongolian steppes. In summary, the authors propose to give the steppes with a size of 2.88 million hectares greater visibility and improved protection through the World Heritage Convention. Overall, the project created a basis for the successful nomination. In addition, a network of various Mongolian interest groups deepened its understanding of the importance of the World Heritage nomination.

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**Project country/region:** Mongolia

**Duration:** 08/2019 – 04/2021

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET)

**Implementing organisations:**  
Succow Foundation, Mongolian Bird Conservation Centre

**Project number:** 127948

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#### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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