



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders (Short title: Nomadic Herders Project)		
Country(ies):	Russian Federation and Mongolia	GEF Project ID: ²	4764
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	806
Other Executing Partner(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRID-Arendal (Norway) - Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia - International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry St Petersburg, (Russia) - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation 	Submission Date:	2012-04-06
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Executing partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taiga Nature Society (Mongolia) - All-Russian Institute of Nature Conservation (Russia) - Saint Petersburg State University (Russia) - Institute for Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Herzen State University (Russia) - Taiga Nature Society (Mongolia) - Association of World Reindeer Herders - International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (Norway) - UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Saint-Petersburg office, Russia) - UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Norway) - IUCN/WISP 	Agency Fee (\$):	469546

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) LD-1	Outcome 1.3: Functionality and cover of agro-ecosystems maintained	Hectares of tree cover in agro-ecosystems	GEFTF	811326	3300000
(select) LD-3	Outcome 3.2: Good management practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by relevant economic sectors	Information on SLM (wider landscape) technology and good practices disseminated	GEFTF	1509663	5200000
(select) BD-2	Outcome 2.2: Measures to conserve and sustainably	Output 2.2. National and sub-national land-use plans	GEFTF	2150872	5800000

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

	use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks	(number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.			
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)		(select)		
(select)	(select)	Others	(select)		
Sub-Total				4471861	14300000
Project Management Cost ⁴			GEFTF	223593	780,000
Total Project Cost				4695454	15,080,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Reduce pasture degradation, sustain resilience of habitats and livelihoods of nomadic herder communities, and conserve and enhance the globally important biological diversity and traditional cultural values of rangelands in Russia and Mongolia [ref. section B.1 and Annex 1 for a map of target areas]

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: Development of Scenario-planning Tools for Sustainable Rangeland Management and biodiversity conservation	TA	1.1 Specific scenario-planning tools for sustainable rangeland management and biodiversity conservation are developed for the target areas	<p>1.1.1 GIS databases, interactive maps and scenario-planning tools for medium & long-term forecasts, encompassing traditional knowledge and indigenous herders' land use, biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change and land use impacts of herders and other actors in target areas are produced with the participation of nomadic herders and as cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial decision support tools</p> <p>1.1.2 Practical recommendations to maintain and optimize the role of pastures to support biodiversity conservation objectives in different rangeland ecosystems (taiga, tundra, steppe), resulting in the mitigation of threats to threatened migratory species (e.g. focusing on wild Reindeer in taiga regions, Swan Goose in Hovsgol, Baikal Teal in Yakut taiga and Lesser White-fronted</p>	GEFTF	313030	1,845,000

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

			<p>Goose in Chukotka tundra) are developed with nomadic herders participation.</p> <p>1.1.3 Additional analytical studies are implemented to fill any remaining critical information gaps that may be identified during the project preparatory phase.</p>			
Component 2: Application of Rangeland Management Tools in Target Areas	TA	2.1 Adaptive rangeland management and ecosystem restoration approaches and tools are applied in selected target areas as the basis for land-use management, including traditional knowledge and good local practices in Reindeer herding	<p>2.1.1 Adaptive rangeland management and ecosystem restoration plans jointly developed and implemented, including strategies to enhance the resilience of pastures and nomadic pastoralist communities to changing social, environmental and climatic conditions as a collaboration among different ministerial entities (i.e. Land, Agriculture, Environment, Development, etc.) and indigenous communities in the target areas (with a special focus on the traditional reindeer herding areas within the new PA network in the Hovsgol area of Mongolia)</p> <p>2.1.2 Multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral and trans-boundary partnerships established and strengthened at local, national and international level to support participatory and sustainable use biodiversity and other rangeland resources</p> <p>2.1.3 Demonstration project on the mitigation of pasture degradation due to summer use of caterpillar vehicles and promotion of environmentally friendly alternatives in the Chukotka region (Russian Federation).</p> <p>2.1.4 Improved legal and regulatory tools to protect pastures traditionally used by herder family groups and herder communities in</p>	GEFTF	3130304	10610000

			encroachment areas and rangeland co-management institutions are developed and piloted in the target model areas, with a view to replication at regional and local levels on the basis of lessons learned from the project model areas			
Component 3: Capacity Development, Education and Awareness Raising	TA	3.1 Rangeland status in model areas is measurably improved through (a) increased capacity of nomadic pastoralist communities to participate in rangeland management and engage in a constructive dialogue with local, regional and national authorities and private sector and (as measured by capacity development scorecards) and (b) raised awareness at international, federal, regional and local levels on the application of adaptive management tools for sustainable land co-management, ecosystem restoration and the prevention of loss of biological diversity, land degradation and loss of cultural heritage	<p>3.1.1 Community-level capacity to understand, monitor and manage environmental change and cope with anticipated climate change is increased through capacity development workshops and training</p> <p>3.1.2 Cross-sectoral “Information Centres” established for the coordination of and promotion of sustainable rangeland conservation and resilient nomadic pastoralism issues (combined with results of component1)</p> <p>3.1.3 Community-based capacity development workshops in the model areas focusing on biodiversity conservation and pasture ecology, combining indigenous and scientific knowledge at local and trans-boundary level</p> <p>3.1.4 Outreach material in the form of project website; newsletters; photo exhibition; coverage by local, national and international media; TV documentary; outreach via mobile phone and SW radio; Final publication to increase awareness on rangelands protection and sustainable pastoralists livelihoods</p> <p>3.1.5 Awareness/education campaigns in the communities on conservation of biodiversity focused on threatened species and recommendation to decision makers on</p>	GEFTF	626060	1,230,000

			integration of environmental knowledge of nomadic herders and scientific knowledge for the conservation of pastoral ecosystems in target areas			
Component 4: Regional Collaboration, dissemination and replication	TA	4.1 Project implementation facilitated, through results-based management and application of project lessons learned in future initiatives.	<p>4.1.1 Experience exchange and information dissemination mechanisms in place through project joint meetings, online discussions and website.</p> <p>4.1.2 Good practices and lessons learned are documented and available for implementation and replication in other regions, sectors and similar ecosystems, - also feeding into the GEF5 learning objectives</p> <p>4.1.3 the cross-sectoral rangeland management plans developed by the project provide the basis for and contribute to dialogues and policy briefs with suggestions for policy improvements, advice on use of local knowledge and collaborative management options aimed at decision-makers at the local, national and international level</p> <p>4.1.4 collaborative project monitoring system is providing systematic information on progress in achieving project outcomes and output targets; mid-term and final evaluation timely conducted and recommendations implemented</p>	GEFTF	402467	615000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Sub-Total					4471861	14,300,000
Project Management Cost ⁵				(select)	223593	780,000
Total Project Costs					4695454	15,080,000

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Governments of Russian Federation and Mongolia (ongoing and planned baseline Government programmes in the fields of Land Use planning, Agriculture, Environment, Development, etc. in the target areas)	In-kind	10880000
CSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All-Russian Institute of Nature Conservation (Russia) - International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry St Petersburg, Russia. - Saint Petersburg State University (Russia) - Institute for Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Herzen State University (Russia) - Taiga Nature Society (Mongolia) - Association of World Reindeer Herders - International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (Norway) - UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Saint-Petersburg office, Russia) - HSH Prince Albert II Foundation - UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Norway) - IUCN-WISP - FFI (Cultural and Conservation Values programme) 	In-kind	2,500,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	GRID-Arendal (Norway)	In-kind	750,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	350,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	Norway and others	Grant	600,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			15,080,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Mongolia	661363	66137	727500
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Mongolia	661363	66137	727500
UNEP	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Russian Federation	1777273	177727	1955000
UNEP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Russian Federation	1595455	159545	1755000
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0

(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				4695454	469546	5165000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF strategies /NPIF Initiative:

Through the proposed activities, the project will support the GEF Strategic Goals 1, 2b and 4. The proposed project supports primarily the Land Degradation Focal Area, *to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation*, as it aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of rangelands and forest habitats in both countries and also across the boundary between the Russian Federation and Mongolia, and to enhance collaborative rangeland management in support of biodiversity and the traditional pastoral livelihoods dependent on rangeland and forest resources. The project supports objectives LD-1 (*Agricultural and Rangeland Systems*) and LD-3 (*Integrated Landscape Management*) by strengthening the resilience pasture habitats and the communities' livelihoods that they sustain, increasing capacity to adapt to climate change and other types of land-use changes (Outcome 1.2: improved rangeland management). The project will also contribute to building local and regional collaborative capacity for conservation, sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources in the project target areas (Outcome 3.1: increased cross-sector dialogue and cooperation).

The project will further directly contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of a diverse range of ecosystems, including forest, mountain and tundra, which provide pastures for domesticated reindeer, as well as a home for the herders. These rangelands provide a number of goods and services including habitats for globally important wild biodiversity. The project will therefore support the goal of Biological Diversity Focal Area, *conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services*. In particular, the project will support the BD Focal Area Objective 2: *Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors*, and its Outcome 2.2 *Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks*. The project will contribute to the enhanced conservation status of globally important biodiversity found in significant areas of mountain rangeland and forest ecosystems, through the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation measures and ecosystem services valuation into land-use planning policy and decision making at local and regional level. Additional detail on the global biodiversity values in terms of globally important species found in the target areas is provided Annex 1 to this PIF. In both Russia and Mongolia, these ecosystems are also providing an important flow of Ecosystem Services, particularly at the local and regional level where the forests play an important role in the water regime, prevention of soil erosion, provide habitat for a number of endangered species, and ensure the maintenance of ecological balance. The project will thus also contribute to the achievement of GEF SFM/REDD+ Objective 1: *Reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services*.

The project will directly benefit the nomadic herders and improve ecosystem management through its capacity building and awareness raising activities. Information products and training materials will be developed on the basis of an ad-hoc training needs assessments and communications strategy and adapted to each selected target audience (including e.g. nomadic herders, local authorities, industrial companies operating in the project region, and the global community).

The project will respond to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD by addressing conservation of ecosystems that provide indigenous livelihoods (Target 14) and by including traditional knowledge and local participation throughout the project period (Target 18).

To account for the additional complexity and costs of developing and managing a regional project and fostering trans-boundary collaboration and exchange, the proponents are also requesting a slightly higher proportion of project management costs (i.e. above the 5% threshold).

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities: n/a

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund: n/a

A.2. national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

Both Russia and Mongolia are party to the major multilateral environmental agreements related to land degradation (UNCCD), biological diversity (CBD), and climate change (UNFCCC). Each country has taken significant steps to implement each of the conventions, by both formulating and enacting national action plans and/or strategies. This project will help each country meet its local and international commitments under each of these conventions, and will be developed in full compliance with each country's national policy framework for environmental management.

In particular, the project interventions which seek to improve information on the impacts of climate change on nomadic pastoralism; of the adaptation options available; and the engagement of local indigenous communities in planning for sustainable nomadic pastoralism – are among the priorities of these national governments in reducing land degradation.

In January 2011 the Mongolian government adopted an updated National Action Programme on Climate Change (NAPCC). The overarching objectives of the Programme are to ensure ecological balances by including adaptation strategies and measures to key socio-economic sectors of Mongolia. The fifth goal of the programme targets the improvement of public awareness and support to community participation in actions against climate change. The proposed project supports Mongolia's compliance with several implementation approaches identified in the NAPCC, notably the ones encouraging international and regional partnerships and cooperation in the field of culture and traditional practices⁶.

By employing a regional approach and encouraging multi-stakeholder partnerships, this project will also support the recommendations of the UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Article 6). In particular, this project will promote and strengthen cooperation networks and the dissemination of traditional and local technologies and know-how within and across borders.

Nomadic pastoralism, when practiced effectively and where traditional and local knowledge and institutions are effectively exercised, is recognized as essential for the conservation of rangelands and their biodiversity. By supporting traditional livelihoods and promoting the use of traditional knowledge and know-how, this project responds to the CBD's call to support and promote traditional knowledge as a means of conserving biodiversity. This project is in line and will support the countries' respective National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The NBSAP⁷ of the Russian Federation from 2002 describes destruction and disturbance of habitats amongst the major threats to species diversity in Russia. Amongst the identified "unique natural complexes, centres of endemism and regions of great value for conservation of global and natural biodiversity"⁸ are Altai, Lake Baikal and its basin, Transbaikalia, and the southern quarters of the Russian Far East (Primorye). The proposed project will be operating in all these regions.

The NBSAP for the RF identifies four regions with special conditions of biodiversity conservation (p. 67). These include the "primary mining regions" defined as the "Northern part of European Russia, West Siberia, northern part of Krasnoyarsky Krai (territory), Sakhalin, probably gold-mining regions of East Siberia and the Far East". The mining regions are featured by "one or two dominant branches of industry, with mining employing the overwhelming percentage of labour force; transient population of contract workers showing little interest in biodiversity and its conservation for the benefit of small resident communities; high ecosystem degradation rate attributable to heavy pollution and direct destruction by mining operations". The report also identifies "necessary conservation measures: Improvement of mining techniques, designation of areas of traditional nature use by indigenous peoples and legal prohibition on mining operations at these territories, encouragement of contribution of mining industries to biodiversity conservation as a means of shaping the ecologically attractive face of a company". In paragraph 5.2.2 "Ecosystem Conservation" of the same report, tundra regions with developed nomadic reindeer husbandry (Yamal, south-west part of Taimyr, Bolshezemel'skaya Tundra, Kola Peninsula, mining regions in the north of Yakutia and Chukotka) are specified as territory experiencing the largest human impacts and threat to their ecosystems (p.46).

Prime-minister of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin declared at the International Forum "The Arctic – Territory of Dialogue", in 2010: "I would like to explain our top priorities. This implies the creation of top-quality, comfortable living conditions for local people and the pursuit of a frugal attitude towards the indigenous and small Arctic nations' socio-economic infrastructure and traditions. We must pay attention to their unique nature, while expanding the social sector, the education and healthcare system and while creating the communications network"⁹

The project have applied for endorsement from the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

⁶ http://www.cdm-mongolia.com/files/dagvadorj_05.pdf

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ru/ru-nbsap-01-p5-en.pdf>

⁸ NBSAP page 64

⁹ <http://premier.gov.ru/eng/events/news/12304/>

(CAFF) Working Group and will provide data to a number of other Arctic Council projects, including the Arctic Change Assessment, the Arctic Resilience Project and the Eallin Reindeer Herders Youth. The project will strengthen herders' capacity on biodiversity & land degradation issues through the involvement of Association of World Reindeer Herders and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

The project corresponds with the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in education, research and innovation between the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Russian Federation signed September 2011.

Land degradation has been identified as one of the priority concerns in Mongolia. The Mongolian NBSAP¹⁰ states that almost 80% of Mongolia's total pastureland has changed. The National Action Program for Combating Desertification (NPACD), adopted by the Government of Mongolia in 2010, outlines the country's strategy to adhere to the principle of attacking the causes of degradation, rather than curing the symptoms. The strategy states: "since causes of degradation often are linked to human activities, effective participation is a leading orientation". One of the objectives of the NBSAP of Mongolia is preventing pasture deterioration. The NBSAP proposes a role for livestock production in the protection of biodiversity.

Mongolia's fourth national report on the implementation of the CBD (2009) states that the alpine and taiga zones covers only 7% of the Mongolian territory but holds e.g. the highest mammalian species richness.

Recorded numbers of species exceeding 60 in Hovsgol and Hentii mountain ranges and in the northern parts of Hangai mountain range. Species richness shows a trend within Mongolia to decrease from north to south. However, the report shows that the population numbers of many of these mammals are declining due to habitat degradation, extraction of natural resources and hunting. Amongst the objectives of the Action Plan is the establishment of information and monitoring system for biodiversity conservation. The project will support the Mongolian objective through the planned community-based monitoring. Recently the Arctic Council EALÁT project delivered its final report for the 7th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting 12th May 2011 in Nuuk, Greenland. The EALÁT project was initiated by WRH to address climate change and loss of pastures in different reindeer herding regions of the world, and is a Norwegian-led project of the Arctic Council with the following key findings (Magga et al., 2011): (a) Climate and socio-economic change are now evident across the Arctic, and is particularly evident in reindeer herding cultures and in their traditional areas, (b) Global and regional scenarios project dramatic changes in temperature, precipitation and snow conditions in the key areas for reindeer herding and in social-economic changes for reindeer herding communities and other indigenous communities in the Arctic and (c) Degradation of pasturelands combined with the consequences of a changing climate will challenge the future of reindeer husbandry.

The project will facilitate exchanges and linkages with nomadic reindeer herders across the husbandry regions in Russia and Mongolia. In that respect, the Conference Statement from the Ninth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Brussels 15th September 2010 states regarding the sustainable management of Living resources in the Arctic: "Strengthen the cooperation of the circumpolar reindeer herders' network, including the IPY legacy, the University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry, as reindeer as a species and their grazing lands have a special significance for human life and the economy in the Arctic".

Through its activities and expected results, the project will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 1 (*Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*) and 7 (*Ensure environmental sustainability*), as well as assist the further progresses of the Mongolian Action Plan for the implementation of Agenda 21 (MAP21) on sustainable development, including the proper use of natural resources and protection of nature and the environment¹¹. The proposed project was also welcomed by the 9th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2010).

¹⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=mn>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/action/mongolia.htm>

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

It has been estimated that pastoralism is practiced on approximately 25% of the global land area, providing 10% of the world's meat production. Nomadic pastoralism provides a highly efficient way of managing sparse vegetation and relatively low fertility. In essence, pastoralists adapt their social and herding systems according to seasonal or spatial weather conditions and the availability of fertile pastures. As a result, biological diversity is enhanced and ecosystem integrity and resilience is maintained. Pastoralism is vital for conserving large areas of natural and semi-natural habitats, and the abandonment of pastoralism threatens biodiversity. Where pastoralism is practiced effectively, and where local knowledge and institutions are effectively exercised, the environmental outcomes are positive. However, where local institutions are undermined, and knowledge is constrained, pastoral environments are easily degraded. Mobile pastoralism is increasingly under threat from legal, economic, social and political disincentives and barriers to mobility of livestock¹².

Pastoral communities, and the ecosystem services they depend upon, are also threatened by climate change. Due to dynamic developments in international law regarding indigenous peoples in the recent decade, specific challenges and problems faced by the indigenous pastoralists have been partly addressed in national, regional and international standard setting. For example a Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report¹³ from 2007 identifies nomadic and semi-nomadic indigenous communities as a group particularly vulnerable to climate change and expresses the need for studying the impact of climate change on these types of communities and the accelerated threats on the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of these communities.

Pastoral livelihoods are threatened by land degradation and loss of biodiversity due to increased infrastructure development, resource exploitation and other forms of human activities. Major drivers behind this development are the world's need for energy and natural resources, also potentially linked to and facilitated by climate change. As such, globalization is very much influencing pastoralists and the sustainability of their communities. The cumulative effects of land fragmentation, natural resource exploitation, pollution, declining access to land together with multiple effects of climate change on ecosystems, have and will continue to put hard pressure on the pastoral communities in many parts of the world, including Russia and Mongolia.

Against this background there is a need to develop and implement integrated management plans for reindeer husbandry and pastures, at the local and national levels, to secure future sustainability of biodiversity, ecosystems and indigenous herding communities in the face of climate change and land use change.

Baseline projects:

Mongolia: The Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture has since 2007 been running a programme called "Restoration of Reindeer Husbandry and Improvement of the Livelihood Conditions of the Tsaatan", also called the 2015 Program. The 2015 Program focuses on the development and capacity building of the reindeer herder community through a variety of initiatives in the sectors of health (including reindeer husbandry), education, environment, and livelihoods. The programme is implemented in two stages, 2007-2011 and 2012-2015. In conformity with the Law on Environmental Protection and other laws of Mongolia, Mongolian citizens have the right to set up Community Partnerships. The main purposes for establishing a community partnership are to protect biological diversity, preserve the land's ecological balance, and enhance natural resources such as forests, animals, and plantations within the community's designated land area. To do so effectively, the members of a partnership must develop a Natural Resource Conservation and Management Plan. The goal of the community partnerships is to ensure long-term well-being of the land and local communities. This GEF intervention will build upon the above government can facilitate the development of new partnerships in the Mongolian taiga and strengthen existing ones.

Jointly with the World Bank, the Mongolian government is implementing the second phase of the Sustainable Livelihoods Project II (SLPII) aiming at enhancing livelihood security and sustainability by preserving the ecological conditions and improve people's livelihood in a sustainable manner. The SLPII includes a separate plan to facilitate the participation of the Dukha and another ethnic group (the Kazakhs) in the project. The GEF proposal will build on and expand the SLPII which will be completed by the end of 2011. The Government of Mongolia is also investing significant resources in the support, management and operations of the existing network of protected areas, including those recently established in the Hovsgol

¹² This paragraph is based on IUCN World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP), <http://www.iucn.org/wisp/>

¹³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/tk/wg8j-05/information/wg8j-05-inf-18-en.doc>

area. The exact amount of baseline financing that will complement project interventions in the target area in Mongolia will be quantified at PPG stage through an accurate review of the updated government budget figures that will be broken down for the specific target region.

The experience, achievements and lessons learned from relevant GEF-funded projects in the same region in Mongolia will also provide an important platform for the successful design and implementation of this project. In particular, the experience of the following projects was reviewed:

World Bank GEF project: “Dynamics of Biodiversity Loss and Permafrost Melt in Lake Hovsgol National Park, Mongolia” (2001-2006, GEF ID: 984)

This project 984 was conducted in eight watersheds within the Hovsgol province of Mongolia. The objective of this project was to identify the impacts of pasture use and forest cutting on ecosystems and streams in the watersheds surrounding Lake Hovsgol. The project delivered a number of important outputs that will provide baseline information for the proposed project, including: 1) Developed maps of land cover, grazing areas, permafrost depth, tree growth, aquatic resources, number of livestock, and gers (Mongolian round tents); 2) Defined interactions between climate changes and land use practices impacts on permafrost, land vegetation cover and biodiversity; and 3) The project compares watersheds with difference intensities in grazing.

Especially the results from project 984’s work in the taiga and high mountain ecosystems will be highly relevant for the proposed Nomadic Herders project. The project 984 did not include capacity building for junior national experts as a major element at its planning and design stage. However during project implementation this became an important component of the project and one of its most important achievements. Therefore a major lesson learned and a key recommendation emerging from project 984 was that emphasis should continue to be placed upon capacity building for your professionals in Mongolia.

Capacity building will be a key component of the proposed Nomadic Herders project. While the WB project focused on young scientist and used international scientists to train and mentor young Mongolian researchers, the proposed project will focus on building the capacity of herders by using the experience and capacity of key people within the international pastoral community to train and mentor reindeer herders (both men and women, from young to old) in the model areas of the project. Through capacity building the proposed project will enhance the herder communities’ ability to engage in resource and land management, monitor biodiversity and land use change.

UNDP GEF project: “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Options in the Grasslands of Eastern Mongolia” (1998-2005, GEF ID: 250)

This project was implemented jointly by Ministry of Nature and Environment, WWF and UNDP and played an important role in setting the stage for the establishment of the network of Protected Areas in Mongolia. Its environmental objectives may be summarized as the long term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the protected areas and buffer zones of the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia, and incorporation of biodiversity considerations into sustainable development of the Eastern Steppe. While this project was implemented focusing mainly on the arid and semi-arid ecosystems of Mongolia, the Nomadic Herders project will focus on the Taiga and high mountain ecosystems.

Nevertheless there are many similarities in approach, including the promotion of an integrated rangeland management leading to the coexistence of traditional herding practices, other human activities and wildlife; and the identification of the participation of herders and other stakeholders as a key factor for successful land and resource management. The proposed Nomadic Herders project will build upon the successes and lessons learned from project 250 in terms of engaging community members and volunteers, and of developing an outreach strategy tailored to the characteristics of the end recipients, i.e. including a mobile public campaign to reach remote herders.

UNDP GEF project: “Community-based Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mountain Landscapes of Mongolia’s Altai Sayan Ecoregion” (2004-2011, GEF ID: 1100)

The overall goal of this project was to ensure the long-term conservation of the biodiversity of

Mongolia's Altai-Sayan region by mitigating threats and encouraging sustainable resource use practices by local communities. The project was implemented also in partnership with WWF Mongolia.

The proposed Nomadic Herders project aims at complimenting the achievements of project 1100 and building on its successes and lessons learned. While the geographical scope of project 1100 was on the Mongolian parts of the Altai Sayan eco-region, the proposed Nomadic Herders project will focus on the Hovsgol aimag (province) of Mongolia. The proposed Nomadic Herders project is also more specifically targeted as it aims to conserve the ecosystems and enhance the livelihood of two specific herder communities, namely the reindeer herders. As learned through project 1100, also the proposed Nomadic Herders project will also take into account that when working on biodiversity and ecosystems conservation it is difficult to make a distinction between the "productive landscape" and the protected areas, whereas in fact the protected areas should be considered very much as an integral part of the "productive landscape".

The project 1100 conducted activities targeting the reindeer herder community, including support to the establishment of the Tsaatan Teepee Camp (tourist infrastructure) and with technical and financial support to the Tsaatan Community Rights Protection Society (NGO established to improve cooperation and community action among the reindeer herders). The experience and lessons learned by project 1100 while working with the reindeer herders on tourism development will be very important for the proposed Nomadic Herders. Data collected on the return of income to local communities and wildlife conservation from fishing and hunting fees, travel and accommodation, and camping arrangements will also provide an important baseline for planning activities related to tourism in the framework of the proposed project.

Despite the activities implemented by project 1100 and the Itgel Foundation there is still a need to address taiga tourism. According to herders interviewed by GRIDA in 2011, very little income is generated from tourism. It is unpredictable – only occasionally they get income from renting out horses, tents, or selling fresh bread to the visitors. There is also an issue of lack of trust in the Tsaatan Community Visitor Centre. Project 1100 also did not focus a great deal on the reindeer herders aside from providing some materials for the teepee hotel concept and some community meetings (source: Dr. Kirk Olson *pers. comm.* e-mail 2nd Feb 2012). External reviews of project 1100 (see Annex 5 of the Final Monthly Progress Update and Overall Review, by the UNDP International Technical Advisor, June 2008) have also identified some weaknesses in the approach on the establishment of eco-tourism, such as the limited engagement with other institutions having similar objectives and already established in the sum (e.g. the Itgel Foundation) and highlighting that only a handful of herder families were involved and benefitted from the Tsaatan Teepee Camp. The proposed Nomadic Herders project will take stock of the above experience and it will also adopt a different approach: reindeer herders themselves will not (and should not) be themselves the focus of the attention for tourists, but they should rather be hosts and service providers for tourist to fully appreciate the natural values of the Taiga. Therefore in the proposed project approach e.g. the Dukha would help visitors to move around in their areas and view the wildlife, and thus become a service provider, rather than a only a "cultural attraction" in their own.

While the project 1100 had a reduction of livestock numbers as a high priority, the proposed Nomadic Herders project will be focusing on reindeer herders that are holding relatively small and herds and thus having a limited impact on the ecosystem. The priority of the proposed project is rather to strengthen these traditional sustainable livelihoods, to reduce external threats to sustainable herding practices, and to enhance the resilience of the ecosystems where nomadic herders live and operate. The Nomadic Herders project will work at central government level to lobby for changes in policies and their implementation but will also invest in equipping local residents with the necessary information and skills to allow them be their own advocates e.g., through participatory video, for change in the way that government manages the environment and biodiversity.

The proposed Nomadic Herders project will follow up on several recommendations provided by project 1100, by i.e. continuing to provide training for local herders to monitor and register biodiversity, including wild reindeer, moose, red deer, brown bear, wolves and wolverine. The

proposed project will also adopt a regional approach with both Russia and Mongolia being involved. This will provide an opportunity to follow-up and further explore trans-boundary management and conservation of wildlife.

The proposed project will also continue to focus on livelihood development, including sustainable tourism, as a means to reduce pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity, building upon the experience gained by project 1100 on the Tsaatan Teepee Camp and coordination with existing initiatives like the Tsaatan Community Visitors Centre. The proposed project will also approach national and international tour operators to explore the possibility of developing legally binding and fair agreements on tourism to the taiga that can provide tangible benefits to nomadic herder communities.

One of the important outcomes of project 1100 was to support local communities in establishing Community Partnerships (voluntary associations of local residents for protecting biological diversity and preserving the land's ecological balance). More than 500,000 hectares in the Altai and Sayan Mountain Ranges are now formally managed by communities. According to feedback from reindeer herders June 2011, some few community partnerships have been established within the reindeer herding area of Hovsgol but the partnerships are not active and their benefits are yet unclear. The Nomadic Herders project will look at the success factors of the project 1100 and will cooperate with herders, authorities and other stakeholders towards improving the efficiency of existing Community Partnerships in the model areas.

The proposed Nomadic Herders project will make use of existing data collected during project 1100, including i.e. information on habitat condition, densities, movement patterns and population dynamics (including legal and illegal hunting mortality), as well as domestic herd sizes and stocking rates and other uses made by local residents of the mountain ecosystems. The GIS data from project 1100 and data held in the WWF database will provide useful sources from baseline information. The proposed project will also contribute to the updating and enhancement of the above existing datasets by developing new GIS data, maps and graphics, and through the data (e.g. species distribution and trends, human uses and changes in use) gathered the community-based monitoring that will be established through the nomadic herders project.

Any reliable data gathered by project 1100 on current populations, the areas affected, and the current hunting pressure by both subsistence and commercial hunters in Hovsgol will be used as a baseline for the proposed Nomadic Herders project. The proposed project will also be informed by the concept for a Sustainable Game (and Fishery) Management Certification Scheme in Mongolia and prior relevant work by project 1100 on the establishment of management systems that transfer responsibility for management of wildlife resources to the local communities, to be funded by licence fees from sports hunters.

The project 1100 further provides two additional recommendations that are relevant to and will be taken into account in the design of the proposed Nomadic Herders project: (a) local institutions should be significantly strengthened to enable them to fully participate and adequately support project activities, including research, monitoring, capacity building, information management and public involvement; and (b) to focus on working more intensively with fewer herder groups.

Finally, among the Several important lessons emerging from the Terminal Evaluation of project 1100 (Dr. Erdenebat Eldev-Ochir and Dr. Phillip Edwards, Oct 2011) the following emerge as important and fully embraced in the design of the new project:

“Changing perceptions needs to be done at all levels if it is to be successful.

Perhaps the most successful part of this Project has been its ability to change the mindset of the local people towards biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. The social mobilisers, the trainings, and the support provided by the Local Project Offices have been excellent and have resulted in a significant, if largely immeasurable change. However, on its own, this change of mindset would be largely unsustainable. What has made it so has been the Project's intervention to provide a legal and policy framework to accommodate and acknowledge the local people's role in conservation and sustainable use of resources, and the work to change the minds of the local government officers to accept a paradigm shift in their role from protectors of state

resources to facilitators of community use. Missing any one of these three would have left the other two compromised. The project has been an excellent example of the need for integration at all relevant levels.”(from TE)

“Projects can make a very significant impact in changing people's mindset and behaviour.

What could possibly be the most important lesson is that projects such as Altai Sayan can make a very significant impact in changing people's mindset and behaviour. The mid-term evaluation concluded that informing people and changing their minds had not been sufficiently achieved by the Project back in 2008. However, this seems to have changed very significantly now. The Project put behavioural and policy changes as the top priorities in recent years. Field visits in the past years have shown that stakeholders at the local level widely perceive this to be the most important impact of the Project and that it has been a turning point for them. It shows that having long term interventions is a key factor success. It also shows that a package of different activities can achieve this result. The combined result of trainings, opening of information centres, working with museums, having social mobilisers placed in every site, working with local stakeholders on policy issues, placing signboards, and field monitoring visits all contributed a part to this end result.” (from PIR 2011).

“Environmental units can be a good means to strengthen coordination at the local level

Another important lesson is that the environmental units can be a good means to strengthen coordination at the local level, as the Mongolian government has the intention to establish such units throughout the country. The units bring together local government staff such as land officers, agriculture officers, rangers, police and others to jointly work on environmental issues on a regular basis, often sharing one office. It is a concept that requires a small initial investment. The initiative emerged in Khuvsgul after which the Project decided to promote it in all 20 target sites. This shows that supporting local initiatives can be very rewarding, as the Ministry just passed a decree to establish environmental units in every soum of Mongolia.” (from PIR 2011) – the project will work closely and support the establishment and strengthening of Environmental Units in the target areas in Mongolia

WWF Mongolia: has worked on the protection of species and habitats, and plays an important role in lobbying for the establishment of new Protected Areas, including in the Hovsgol region in Mongolia. WWF Mongolia was an important partner of both the project Community-based Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mountain Landscapes of Mongolia's Altai Sayan Ecoregion and the former UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Project.

The IFAD initiatives on Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (2003-2011) and Mongolia Livestock Adaptation Project (2011-2016) in Mongolia aimed at reducing poverty and improving livelihoods of poor herders households. These projects however targeted other herder communities than those that will be specifically involved in the proposed Nomadic Herders project. The review of the above projects and of existing IFAD publications on the subject provided important guidance in the development of the Nomadic Herders proposal and will be used to support project design, and in particular the Livestock Thematic Paper – Tools for Project Design - on “Livestock and Pastoralists” which can be viewed at: <http://www.ifad.org/lrkm/index.htm>

Russian Federation: A preliminary list of relevant government strategies for the Russian Federation that underpin government investment in the target areas includes i.e.: 1.Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the Far East and the Baikal region for the period up to 2025; 2. Russia's Energy Strategy until 2020; 3. The Scheme of Integrated Development of the Productive Forces, Transport and Energy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) until 2020; 4. Russian Arctic Development Strategy until 2020 (not adopted yet); 5. The Strategy of Socio-Economic Development of Russia until 2020; 6. The Strategy of Socio-Economic Development of Siberia until 2020 and 7. Russian Climate Change Doctrine 2009.

The baseline investments and government initiatives in the Russian Federation that will complement project objectives are quite significant and will be further assessed and quantified during the PPG. However an initial list includes data that will need to be analysed and focused geographically and thematically, on the basis of the selected target areas (during the project preparatory phase):

(a) The Federal Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation provided a special “State Program to Sustain Agriculture in 2008-2012”. The draft of the new “State Program to Sustain Agriculture in 2013-2020” is ready and it will be approved in the coming months of 2012. According the Program 2008-2012 reindeer husbandry in Russia received from the Federal budget 278,2 million rubles in 2008; 283,7 in 2009; 287,3 in 2010; 296,1 in 2011, and 311,2 in 2012.

(<http://www.mcx.ru/documents/document/show/1360.145.htm>). The draft of the new Program 2013-2020 is expected to provide subsidies from the Federal budget for reindeer husbandry and horse breeding (combined), for a total value of: 315,6 million rubles in 2013; 332,0 in 2014; 349,3 in 2015; 367,4 in 2016; 386,5 in 2017; 406,6 in 2018; 427,8 in 2019; 450,0 – in 2020

(<http://www.mcx.ru/documents/document/show/16834.342.htm>). The USD equivalent is provided in the following table:

Subsidy to Reindeer Husbandry and Horse Breeding (combined)			
Year	Annual investment in Rubles	Exchange rate (27.02.2102)	USD Equivalent
2013	315,600,000	0.0343	10,822,303
2014	332,000,000	0.0343	11,384,678
2015	349,300,000	0.0343	11,977,916
2016	367,400,000	0.0343	12,598,587
2017	386,500,000	0.0343	13,253,549
2018	406,600,000	0.0343	13,942,802
2019	427,800,000	0.0343	14,669,775
2020	450,000,000	0.0343	15,431,040
<i>Total</i>			<i>104,080,650</i>
Total for project period (2013-2017)			60,037,033

(b) There are Federal subsidies to the budgets of the Russian regions to support economic and social development of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (adopted by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation #217, 10th March 2009), which are also supporting reindeer herding communities – though it is challenging to estimate how much of the allocations are directly benefiting reindeer herders. As an example the federal budget to support reindeer herders for year 2012 only envisages the allocation of the following amounts:

Region of the Russian Federation	2012 support for Reindeer Herders (RUB)	Exchange Rate (27.02.2012)	USD Equivalent
Republic of Buryatia	10,265,000	0.0343	352,090
Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	24,000,000	0.0343	823,200
Republic of Tyva	4,082,000	0.0343	140,013
Zabaikalsky kray	1,779,000	0.0343	61,020
Krasnoyarsky kray	13,591,000	0.0343	466,171
Khabarovskiy kray	24,000,000	0.0343	823,200

Amurskaya oblast	2,203,000	0.0343	75,563
Irkutskaya oblast	1,800,000	0.0343	61,740
Sakhalinskaya oblast	2,633,000	0.0343	90,312
Chukotsky autonomous okrug	24,000,000	0.0343	823,200
Total:	108,353,000	0.0343	3,716,508
Total anticipated over project period (2013-2017) – however note that not all regions will be included in project			18,582,540

(c) The Regional Governments of one of the two project target regions in the Russian Federation, Sakha Yakutia, is investing significant resources to sustain reindeer-herding enterprises. The Republic adopted in December 2011 a new State program of support for agriculture in the period of five years: 2012-2016 (Decree of the President of Sakha Republic №1102, 13th Dec. 2011). According to this program, the Government of Sakha Republic will allocate the following annual funds for supporting reindeer husbandry:

2012 - 445,394 million RUB
2013 - 488,632 million RUB
2014 - 540,933 million RUB
2015 - 548,351 million RUB
2016 - 557,911 million RUB
Total – 2,581,222 million RUB (88,536 million USD)

(d) The Government of Sakha Republic plans to spend in 5 years some 448,173 million RUB (15,372 million USD) to support the production of goods and handicrafts in reindeer husbandry.

(e) Another example of regional governments supporting reindeer husbandry is the Government of Chukotka which invests 40 to 45 million Rubles (approximately 1.5 million USD) every year to support reindeer-herding enterprises (http://www.chukotka.org/power/national_projects/nacproekt_APK/).

(f) In addition to the above, the Regional and Federal governments of the Russian Federation allocate significant investments on an annual basis, to support the management of Protected Areas in the project target sites. The accurate estimation of such baseline investment will be performed during the PPG. This will be done on the basis of a more specific site selection and mapping, and consultation with local and national government stakeholders including a review of historic and forecasted budget allocations for PA operations within or surrounding the selected project target areas. These accurate estimates will be submitted at project CEO endorsement.

(h) finally, several other internationally funded initiatives in support of nomadic herders livelihoods and implemented through project execution partners will also provide an additional baseline to project interventions. These include e.g (i) the EALLIN Reindeer Herders Youth project, to which the Russian Federation will allocate 1 million rubles from 2012 onwards, (ii) EALAT follow up work: every year the Regional Government of the Sakha Republic government allocates 3-4 million rubles for community-based workshops with reindeer herders and other stakeholders. The Republic also allocates funding of approx. 6 million rubles for a housing program (within the budget of the Republic's Ministry of Agriculture), medical screenings, and a program on social work with children of reindeer herders (Ministry of Education). All together the Sakha government annually allocates funding of approx. 10 million rubles and (iii) The Foundation of HSH Albert II of Monaco that allocates annually 50,000 euro to ICR to support training programmes for reindeer herder youth.

The project and the problem it seeks to address:

The geographical scope of the proposed project will cover rangeland of reindeer herders in Russia and

Mongolia (see attached map). The project area in Mongolia is the world's southern-most area of reindeer husbandry. The region includes snow-capped mountains, tundra, permafrost, forests, taiga and grassland. It provides habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal species, including plants of medicinal value, the globally threatened snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), and the wild reindeer listed in the Red Book of Mongolia. Russian reindeer husbandry, especially in the northern part of Western Siberia (Yamal area) as well as the South-East of Siberia (Republic of Sakha –Yakutia, Amurskaya oblast, Sakhalin, Zabaikalsky krai, Khabarovskiy kray, Krasnoyarskiy kray, Irkutskaya oblast, Chitinskaya oblast) and the republics of Buryatia and Altai have suffered from impacts from activities related to oil and gas extraction, mining and infrastructure development.

Yamal area is the most important region of reindeer husbandry in Northern Hemisphere. The total number of domesticated reindeer in Yamal-Nenets district is more than 650 000 (43% of the total reindeer stock of Russia). This is a unique area where many thousands of herder families keep the really nomadic way of life crossing twice a year the distance of several hundred kilometers between summer and winter pastures. In the Yamal area, the number of domesticated reindeer has increased considerably in recent decades, while the herders' access to pastures has decreased, resulting in increased land degradation of the remaining pastures. In the Yamal area, the number of domesticated reindeer has remained high in recent years, while the herders' access to pastures has decreased. This project recognizes the complex system of reindeer grazing in areas of industrial development and will investigate its resilience to change.

Sakha (Yakutia) Republic is the area with the second largest number of reindeer in Russia, with more than 200 000 animals. Compared with Yamal, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) has a larger area of territory and more reindeer pastures. Yakutia has a variety of ecosystems and landscapes from the Arctic tundra to the sub-Arctic taiga. In the southern and western part of Yakutia there is intensive industrial development like the extraction of metals, diamonds, gold, coal, uranium, timber, oil and gas, and the construction of a railway, pipelines, hydropower plants and other types of infrastructure, all of which is competing for land resources and degrading the pastureland. In the taiga, forest fires represent another increasing threat to reindeer herding and migration.

Chukotka is yet another important reindeer herding region in Russia. One of the challenges in Chukotka is the use of heavy caterpillar vehicles creating deep tracks in the tundra. At the same time these vehicles are an important (and sometimes the only) mode of transport for people on the tundra, while having a significant negative impact on the socio-economic situation of reindeer herding communities.

In Russia, only the so-called reindeer enterprises (in which reindeer are in state or municipal ownership) have pastures protected by legislation and regulatory tools. More than 500,000 reindeers, about 1/3 of the total number of domesticated reindeer, are in the private ownership of herder families or family groups. These families often have no official rights to pastures and have problems protecting their rangeland from encroachment. It is important to document historically herders' rights and practices (including pasture use and migration routes), and study how these have been affected by industrialization, changes in livestock and land ownership, borders and globalization.

Taiga reindeer husbandry: is one of unique and most ancient types of reindeer husbandry practiced today in Russia, China and Mongolia. Taiga reindeer husbandry consists of small-sized reindeer herds. Traditionally, the communities combine herding with hunting of wild game inhabiting the taiga. There are 15 different Indigenous Peoples practicing reindeer husbandry in the taiga. Only one of these, the Dukha people, is Mongolian. The Dukha is a sub-group of the Todsjin-Tuva people that are reindeer herders in the Tuva Autonomous Republic in Russia¹⁴. The Dukha reindeer herders live and migrate with their animals along the borders of the Tuva and Buryatia on the south slopes of the Sayan Mountains. Both the Dukha and Tuva peoples are small in number and their cultures are vulnerable to loss of pastures.

The livelihood and culture of the Dukha reindeer herders are threatened by hunting restrictions and wildlife conservation, extraction activities (minerals and forest) by artisanal miners (the so-called "ninja" miners), an increased exposure to livestock diseases, and a growing need for cash for accessing education and health care. The Dukha herds have fallen from over 2,000 in the late 1970s to approximately 700 in 2006¹⁵, while the grazing capacity for reindeer in Mongolia is estimated at 4000-5000 animals¹⁶. In the Russian **taiga**, the number of reindeer has declined by 85% between 1991 and 2007. The taiga reindeer husbandry in south Eurasia is under special threat and some places it has gone distinct.

¹⁴ http://www.reindeer-husbandry.uit.no/online/Final_Report/mongolia.pdf

¹⁵ http://itgel.org/pdf/tsaatan_culture.pdf

¹⁶ http://www.reindeer-husbandry.uit.no/online/Final_Report/mongolia.pdf

Globally important biodiversity and ecosystems under threat: The Altai-Sayan ecoregion is a unique reservoir for Central Asia's biodiversity covering a territory of approximately 1 million km², divided over Russia (60%), Mongolia (30%), and China (5%). Comprised of 17 different ecosystems, the Altai Sayan includes the habitats for a large number of rare and endangered species of global importance, as well as critically endangered ecosystems of global significance. There are currently a number of protected areas in the project target regions, and yet there is an identified need to protect additional vulnerable biodiversity hotspots in both Russia and Mongolia (see map in Annex 1). The project will complement and build upon these ongoing government efforts. For example, Mongolia has set the target of establishing a protected areas network covering up to 30% of the country by 2015. (In 2010 14% of the country was included in the national system of protected areas.) A new National Park was established in April 2011 in the Tengis River's upstream area – a region at the heart of Mongolia's reindeer herding. The project will have a special focus identifying ways to enhance the resilience of the globally important biodiversity as well as sustaining reindeer husbandry. Further, the project will contribute to the prevention of land degradation and promotion of the long-term sustainable management of forests and rangelands in this vast and diverse region, focusing on the involvement of nomadic herders populations in sustainable management of their traditional pasturelands.

The Altai is dominated by mountain steppe, high mountain zones and mountain taiga and contains 187 glaciers. The vegetation cover of this region is mainly concerned with cereals for the steppe foothills and with Larch forests for the taiga mountain zone. The most humid part of the taiga allows for a different vegetation coverage mainly including coniferous species such as cedar and silver fir and fir trees. The Altai alpine meadow and tundra are other characteristic ecosystems of the Altai. Comprised of abundant grass and flowers and low bushes in most parts, the eastern part of the region's alpine vegetation varies from bush tundra to moss-lichen ecosystems.

The Sayan has a basin of more than 300 lakes surrounded by mountains covered by different types of forests. The Sayan conifer montane forest eco-region is dominated by Larch and various Pine (*Pinus silvestris*, *Pinus sibirica*, *Picea obvata*) as well as by various lichens on the ground layer. The Great Lake Depression, considered as another ecoregion of the Sayan region contains numerous lakes lying in the lower altitudes, Uvs Lake, Hyargas Lake, Har us Lake, Sharga lake, that combine salt and freshwater. As a consequence, the neighbouring vegetation offers a complex amalgam of wetlands embedded in semi-desert steppes with drought-resistant and salt resistant plants such as onions and absinthes. Eventually a third ecoregion completes the diversified vegetation of the Sayan region, namely the alpine meadow and tundra ecoregion, comprised of a dominant vegetation of shrubs, lichens and mosses .

Approximately 40% of the Mongolian Sayan region is protected and in the northern Mongolia, 200km² is dedicated to reindeer husbandry and protected from development .

The richness of the Mongolian and Russian vegetation hosts a unique and symbolical fauna. Among different species, the Altai-Sayan region is home to the Snow Leopard, the Siberian Ibex and the Mongolian Saiga. The forested parts of the Taiga are key habitats to species such as Red Deer, Eurasian Elk or Sable. The Lakes and marshes welcome over 300 species of birds including the Eurasian Spoonbill, as well as the Relict Gull and the Dalmatian Pelican, two vulnerable species. Among the dominant animals of the steppe are small rodents such as hamsters, chipmunks and field voles. These species are also found in the Great Lakes Basin area home to the Osman, a characteristic Asian fish species. Iconic species inhabiting the Mongolian semi-deserts are the Dzeren Antelope and the Long-eared Hedgehog familiar to dry habitats. The alpine fauna includes the Argali mountain sheep and the Snow Leopard, species seen as special symbols of the Altai Sayan, notably in reason of their endangered status.

As for wildlife, the Altai Sayan ecosystem as a whole is affected by several threats. Both impacts of climate change and anthropogenic issues contribute to the transformation of the eco-region. The warming of spring and winter months provoke changes such as thaws and heaviest snow falls as well as modification in the snow quality of the alpine regions. On a long term perspective, the whole alpine ecosystem will face increased habitat fragmentation and glaciers melting will leave the way for the forests coverage to move up along the slopes. As a consequence, the characteristics of the alpine ecosystem themselves are changing, in terms of vegetation quality as well as in quantity. The biodiversity, here intended as richness of species, is declining, leaving the path to the potential invasion of dominant species (e.g. Silver Fir).

Climate conditions are critical for the survival of wildlife and the restoration of plants from a season to another one and contribute to unfavourable winter conditions for ungulates and predatory mammals, forcing them to migrate. Birds and small mammals are also facing an increasing scarcity in food supplies. Further, new roads associated with urbanization and development are a major cause of land fragmentation in the region. By allowing for more accessibility for resource exploitation (mining), communications routes

raise the question of a more polluted and frequented area, threatening both wildlife habitats and indigenous peoples traditional livelihoods. See annex for list of significant species and ecosystems, and maps.

The nexus between traditional cultural values, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use management: In the above context, land degradation issues, traditional cultural values and biodiversity conservation are closely intertwined. The loss of traditional pasture lands which nomadic reindeer herders depend upon is clearly resulting in the rapid loss of globally important ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore the project will seek to address land degradation and biodiversity conservation in an integrated fashion, through the involvement and empowerment of the reindeer herder communities as the key stewards of the conservation of critical large pasture ecosystems.

The underlying rationale of this project is therefore that the long-term preservation of the cultural and traditional values at the basis of the nomadic herders' way of life is an essential and conducive element to the conservation of globally important biodiversity in these vast and remote ecosystems. Nomadic herders have been living with their natural habitats for centuries. It is only in recent times that the gradual loss of natural habitat and traditional pastures, due to external development pressures, climate change and population increase, has made their traditional way of life no longer fully sustainable. If current trends are not reversed, then vast areas of pasture lands will be further degraded and the associated habitat for globally important biodiversity will be irreversibly lost.

The project will try to address the above issues by taking stock of prior initiatives and continuing to foster a shift towards integrated biodiversity conservation practices and sustainable land uses that sees the nomadic herders as the main actors at the centre of a new and sustainable approach to land use management. The project will be acting at the nexus between traditional cultural values, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use management. It will aim to develop biodiversity conservation capacity, preserve traditional and cultural values attached to the land, and thus empower again the nomadic herders to become the future main actors in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use management. The project learns from and address the weaknesses identified in prior similar initiatives, and will respond to the needs and priorities expressed by nomadic herders in recent consultations held with NH groups in year 2011. This approach will also aim at increasing the NH's capacity to engage with, collaborate and support relevant government institutions with the mandate to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable land use management, as well as at providing NHs with the capacity to engage with the private sector on a more balanced basis.

- B. 2. [incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The proposed project takes stock of the experience of and is different from prior initiatives in the same area. It will be designed to focus only on the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity that sustain some of the smallest and most vulnerable Nomadic Herder groups: the Reindeer herders in three selected target areas in Mongolia and the Russian Federation. It is estimated that the number of Nomadic Herders who will be directly involved and benefitting from the project will be approximately 1,500 across both countries (i.e. 500 in Mongolia and 1,000 in the Russian federation), while an additional over 4,000 in other NH target groups will accrue more indirect benefits resulting from shared capacity building and dissemination activities (during project implementation) and from the subsequent application of the participatory planning, awareness raising, biodiversity & habitat monitoring and capacity development tools developed by the project in the target areas. The **project area** within **Mongolia** covers Tsagaannuur, Renchinkhümbe and Ulaan-Uul districts in Hovsgol province, (approx. 23,915 km²) and data on population density of these target areas is provided below in section B.3. In the **Russian Federation**, the project will focus on two main target areas (a) Southern Yakutia, and (b) Chukotka. The project will focus on Southern Yakutia, in the following specific target areas: Neryungrinsky ulus (district), reindeer herders village of Iengra; Aldansky ulus (district), reindeer herders village of Khatystyr; and Olekminsky ulus (district), Evenki villages of Tyanya and Tokko. There are around 100-200 people involved in reindeer herding in each of these three villages. Additional details on the number of herders and the size of the target areas is summarised below in section B.3.

The project will combine science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge of pastoralist to develop scenario

planning tools as a basis for input for sustainable land use planning and management. The project will also emphasise institutional development and capacity building for young professionals who are part of the NH community, that was often underestimated in the design of prior projects. It will promote a holistic approach (i.e. a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way), and it will support the establishment of systematic recording of herders' and others' observations regarding biodiversity and land use change. The guiding principles of the project emerge from the experience of Nomadic Herder groups worldwide and from specific consultations with Nomadic Herder groups in 2011 and published in: *Johnsen, K.I, Alfthan, B., Tsogsaikhan, P. and Mathisen, S.D. (eds), 2012: "Changing Taiga: Challenges to Mongolian Reindeer Husbandry" Portraits of Transition No. 1, UNEP-GIRD Arendal*. During such recent consultations, Nomadic Herders in target areas have specifically complained that none of the national or international projects have gone to the Taiga to ask the herders about their needs. The proposed project will instead strive to engage nomadic herders at all stages and starting with project design, and then ensuring regular consultations throughout project implementation, to discuss feedback on activities and to continuously allow evaluation of whether the project is addressing the herder's needs and in accordance with the projects' sustainable resource management/ biodiversity conservation objectives. All project interventions will be subject to social and environmental analysis before they are started. This will also include an evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the project capacity building and training elements.

The project will generate significant Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) related to Biodiversity, though the conservation of threatened pastureland ecosystems (17 ecosystems in the Altay-Sayan ecoregion alone such as: Alpine meadow, Alpine tundra, Boreal coniferous forest, Closed depressions, Salt banks, Desert steppe, Dry steppe, Glacier, High mountain steppe, Intermittent rivers and ephemeral channels, Lakes, Meadow steppe, Moderate dry steppe, Perennial rivers and floodplains, Sand dunes, Semi-desert, Sub-alpine woodland, Sub-boreal mixed forest and True desert - ref. Annex 1). These ecosystems host some of the last remaining critical habitats for a range of endangered species of which of e.g. nine are of global importance in the Altay-Sayan ecoregion, such as the Mongolian Saiga (*Saiga tatarica*, Critically Endangered), the Snow Leopard, (*Panthera uncia*, Endangered), Altai Argali (*Ovis ammon ammon*, Vulnerable), the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*, Vulnerable), Goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*, Vulnerable), Relict Gull (*Larus relictus*, Vulnerable), Sable (*Martes zibellina*, Vulnerable), Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Vulnerable), Wild reindeer (*subspecies R.t. valentinae*, Vulnerable) in the Altay-Sayan ecoregion alone (ref. Annex 1 for more detail). In the selected project target areas, a participatory system to monitor the status and trends of species and populations of critically endangered species will be enhanced (if existing) and/or set-up afresh, as a collaborative effort between nomadic herders communities, local branches of the Ministry of Environment and other national and international partners involved in BD conservation efforts in the region. This BD Monitoring system will also be designed to provide the data required to assess the project's conservation impact in the short, medium and longer term.

The project will also identify and **focus on a limited and realistic set of target areas** (see above in this section), to allow more intensive work with fewer herders than in prior initiatives, focusing on the actual development of planning and co-management agreements. In order to realize expected outcomes, the project will identify which activities should be carried out at the local level only and separately in each district, and which activities should be treated as a cross-cutting task and thus best implemented jointly for all target areas.

The project will be based mainly on existing and to some limited extent on project-supported gap-filling analytical studies on the root causes degradation of grazing land in the reindeer herding areas of the Russia and Mongolia. These baseline studies will be used to develop tools and strategies for maintaining or improving the ecosystem functions of pastureland to sustain the livelihoods of local communities and conserve globally important biodiversity. The project will apply and test community-led rangeland management frameworks for improving biodiversity and rangeland management and sustainable pastoralism, increasing the resilience of both the ecosystems and livelihoods to climate change and other environmental changes. The tools, lessons and good practices emerging from the project will be used as a platform for capacity development for nomadic herders, and will be disseminated locally as well as nationally and globally. Results from the project will complement other ongoing international initiatives like the *World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism* led by IUCN and the FAO-initiated *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems* that currently do not have activities within the geographical scope of this project. The project is unique as it will act at the nexus between traditional cultural values, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use management. It will include local participation throughout the project period, conduct community-based workshops to gather and analyse data,

involve local representatives of the World Reindeer Herders when possible, combine indigenous and scientific knowledge on biodiversity conservation, and facilitate exchange of information and experience between reindeer herding communities. The lessons learned and best practices emerging from the project will be shared in the form of guidelines for stakeholder involvement in the development of culturally sensitive biodiversity conservation and adaptation strategies. Through the local networks of Association of World Reindeer Herders and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, based in the target areas, the project is linked to the local herding societies and peoples, to secure local participation in documentation, research and monitoring, as well as in outreach activities.

The objective of the project is to *reduce pasture degradation, sustain resilience of habitats and livelihoods of nomadic herder communities, and conserve and enhance the globally important biological diversity and traditional cultural values of rangelands in Russia and Mongolia*. This will be achieved through combining best available science with the traditional knowledge and cultural values of the herders. With the participation of reindeer herders, local and national authorities and specialists, the project will establish local management plans that can to a large extent be implemented and monitored by the herders themselves. The project envisages four main components:

Component 1: Development of Scenario-planning Tools for Sustainable Rangeland Management

This component will build upon existing assessments of the historical and current state and use of rangeland/pastures (including migration patterns), climate variability and ongoing rapid changes in reindeer herding communities. This component will include the development of scenarios and scenario-planning tools for medium- and long-term forecasts of land use change and climate change, considering the broad range of ecosystem services provided by the habitat types covered by the project. If required, selected gap-filling studies may be supported to complement existing studies. Novel methods developed during the International Polar Year will be used to incorporate the herders' traditional knowledge of pasture use and their traditional understanding of biodiversity and landscape, into sustainable land use planning exercises. Young herders will be trained to interview their elders and regularly collect traditional knowledge about resource management and conservation. The resilience of reindeer husbandry to pasture degradation and climate change will be included as a key element of land-use planning tools. By combining traditional knowledge and local observations with scientific studies, climate change projections will be developed of each model area. Fuzzy logic will be included in this social approach to understand and reflect herders' cultural diversity, adaptive capacity, transformability and resilience. Component outcomes will also include a GIS database, maps and reports presenting scenarios of environmental, socio-economic and cultural impacts from pasture degradation, as well as animal welfare related to climate variability and degradation of grazing land in target areas in Russia and Mongolia. If possible, additional larger-scale (less-detailed), mapping of reindeer rangeland use in all the Russian Federation and Mongolia will also be developed with co-financing resources to be mobilised during the project life.

Component 2: Application of Rangeland Management Tools in Target Areas

Building on existing tools (e.g. the "Nomadic Herders handbook", etc.), as well as the climate-resilience analysis and planning tools developed under Component 1, the project will support the implementation of adaptation strategies and tools for sustainable co-management of pastureland in model areas with an aim to prevent loss of biological diversity and cultural heritage in the rangelands, as well as to enhance the resilience of reindeer pastures and pastoral communities to changing social, environmental and climate conditions. Activities will contribute to the improvement of the management and conservation status of vast model areas of rangeland and forest habitats in both countries, including trans-boundary areas, by addressing the underlying causes of pastureland decline identified in project preparation and in component 1. The results of these activities and of the associated comprehensive capacity development program for nomadic herders (Component 3) will improve selected communities' ability to adapt to change and understand/address factors that both limit and enhance the resilience of selected communities, their livestock and the land upon which their livelihood depends. A special focus will be put on the new National Park established April 2011 in the Tengis River upstream area, an area in the heart of reindeer herding in Mongolia, to identify ways to enhance the resilience of biodiversity as well as sustaining reindeer husbandry. The project will also provide the initial framework for setting-up regular forums for dialogue between pastoralist, local government, private sector companies and other key stakeholders both in the target areas and at national and international level. These meetings will also be arenas for giving regular updates about the progress and results in the project.

Component 3: Capacity Development, Education and Awareness Raising

To secure the sustainable conservation of biodiversity and pastures, restore ecosystems and to enhance the resilience of the basis for the livelihoods of pastoral communities in the future, there is a need to increase the capacity of pastoral communities and other stakeholders on impact assessments and co-management. Hence, the project will offer training sessions in model areas making use of existing materials (e.g. the "Nomadic Herders

handbook”, etc.), and tailor-made (through the project) new specific guidelines on sustainable use and co-management of pastureland for reindeer herders. Throughout the project period, there will be a regular development of new specific training and outreach products for different types of target audiences on the local, national and global arena. These products will include a project website in English, Russian and Mongolian; articles, press releases, newsletters; photo library; outreach material that can be disseminated via mobile phones and short waved radio, and video films – all in line with the communication strategy that will be developed in the preparation phase of the project. Outreach material will enhance the understanding of the communities’ and ecosystems’ vulnerability and ability to adapt to changes. As the baseline studies and planning tools developed under Component 1 will be based on both traditional knowledge and scientific data and analysis, training sessions on data gathering and documentation, including multimedia tools, will be offered selected local herders and key stakeholders (pending results of an initial trainings needs assessment, capacity development workshops and trainings to be held in model areas are expected to be focusing on i.e.: climate and land-use change; present and potential adaptation options; combining science and traditional ecological knowledge; good practices and lessons learned). The project will also establish permanent information and knowledge centres in model area focusing on herders’ traditional knowledge and future environmental challenges [including Saint-Petersburg State University (Russia) and Tsagaanuur village in Hovsogol Aimag (Mongolia)]. The centres will link up to activities of the University of the Arctic, the Association of World Reindeer Herders and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry to meet the demand from young reindeer herders to build rangeland management competence locally. All data, maps and satellite images collected in the project will be provided to these centres for future use. The new Centers for Reindeer Husbandry will follow the accreditation system of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and should focus on traditional and scientific knowledge related biodiversity and land degradation, including community-based monitoring of species such as wild reindeer. Recently established centres in Yakutia will also be further developed, through programmes for traditional knowledge on biodiversity and land use change. This project component will contribute to increased awareness of reindeer husbandry, pasture ecosystems’ services, and threats to globally important biodiversity. The results of the project will also feed into the learning objectives set for GEF5.

Component 4: Regional Collaboration, Dissemination and Replication

This component will focus on regional collaboration, dissemination and replication aspects, all of which emerged as limitations of prior projects in this area and will therefore be assigned higher emphasis in this new project. Local-level and international trans-boundary collaboration mechanism for experience exchange and information dissemination will be established through existing organisations to ensure cost-effectiveness and long-term sustainability of project outcomes. This will include joint team meetings focusing on trans-boundary collaboration, ongoing online discussions and management of a joint website. The good practices and lessons learned will be reflected in project reporting and made widely available through the GEF, UNEP and all project partners’ networks, for implementation and replication in other regions, sectors and similar ecosystems, - also feeding into the GEF5 learning objectives. The cross-sectoral rangeland management plans developed by the project will also provide the basis for and contribute to dialogues and policy briefs with suggestions for policy improvements, advice on use of local knowledge and collaborative management options aimed at decision-makers at the local, national and international level. This component will also support the set-up and operation of a joint project monitoring system, providing systematic information on progress in achieving project outcomes and output targets and ensuring that mid-term and final evaluation are timely conducted and their recommendations timely adopted and implemented.

How a participatory agenda will be pursued in the project planning and implementation:

In developing the PIF the project proponents have consulted and discussed priorities with pastoralists participating at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII - May 2011). Through the on-going dialogue and close cooperation with the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH), UNEP/GRID Arendal has conducted a number of workshops and consultations with reindeer herders from both Russia and Mongolia during 2010 and 2011. This included a field visit to a reindeer herders’ camp in Mongolia in June 2011. The activities envisaged in the PIF are therefore based on inputs received from nomadic herders during these workshop and discussions, and are building on the joint experience of WRH and UNEP/GRID-Arendal on facilitation of community participation in all projects phases – developing a concept, planning, implementation and evaluation. The guiding principles of the project emerge from the experience of Nomadic Herder groups worldwide and from specific consultations with Nomadic Herder groups in 2011 and published in: *Johnsen, K.I, Alfthan, B., Tsogsaikhan, P. and Mathisen, S.D. (eds), 2012: “Changing Taiga: Challenges to Mongolian Reindeer Husbandry” Portraits of Transition No. 1, UNEP-GIRD Arendal*. During such recent consultations, Nomadic Herders in target areas have specifically complained that none of the national or international projects have gone to the Taiga to ask the herders about their needs. The proposed project will

instead strive to engage nomadic herders at all stages and starting with project design, and then ensuring regular consultations throughout project implementation, to discuss feedback on activities and to continuously allow evaluation of whether the project is addressing the herder's needs and in accordance with the projects' sustainable resource management/ biodiversity conservation objectives (project objectives and outcomes).

All project interventions will be subject to social and environmental analysis before they are started. This will also include an evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the project capacity building and training elements. Herders will be represented in the steering committee and be responsible for conducting project activities. E.g. in the preparatory and data gathering phase, the project will be using participatory mapping and participatory GIS analysis. Participatory video is yet another technique that will be used in order to gather and communicate herders concerns and opportunities both internally in the herding communities and to increase awareness externally to decision-makers and the general public. Outreach activities targeting herders can be provided through community meetings, schools, district centres, mobile phone applications and television (as most herder camps have access to mobile phones and television that are run by electricity from solar panels).

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.](#)":

The project will contribute to enhancing the resilience of reindeer pastoral ecosystems in Russian and Mongolian rangelands. The project components will ensure increased awareness of the ecosystems' services, vulnerability to changes, and management options for the rangeland ecosystems to conserve and enhance globally important biological diversity. It is estimated that the number of Nomadic Herders who will be directly involved and benefitting from the project will be approximately 1,500 in the three target area across both countries (i.e. 500 in Mongolia and 1,000 in the Russian federation), while an additional over 4,000 in other NH target groups (i.e. in the other reindeer communities in Buryatiya, Tuva, Khabarovskiy Kray, Magdanskaya Oblast and Sakhalin regions of the Russian Federation not directly affected by the project) will accrue more indirect benefits resulting from shared capacity building and dissemination activities (during project implementation) and from the subsequent application of the participatory planning, awareness raising, biodiversity & habitat monitoring and capacity development tools developed by the project in the target areas.

The **project area** within **Mongolia** covers Tsagaannuur, Renchinkhümbe and Ulaan-Uul districts in Hovsgol province, and the size and population density of these target areas is provided below:

District (<i>Sum</i>)	Population 2009	<i>Sum</i> centre population 2009	Area (km ²)	Density (/km ²)
Tsagaannuur	1,547	708	5,408.30	0.29
Renchinkhümbe	4,740	825	8,448.34	0.56
Ulaan-Uul	4,118	1,386	10,057.52	0.41
Total	10,405	2,919	23,914.16	

In the **Russian Federation**, the project will focus on two main target areas (a) Southern Yakutia, and (b) Chukotka. The number of reindeer herders in these model regions in Russia is even higher: there are 2,219 reindeer herders in Yakutia, and they manage 185 reindeer herds (with the total number of 200,000 reindeer). E.g. a total of 624 school boys have worked with herders families during summer vacations in 2010.

(<http://sakha.gov.ru/node/57536>). The project will focus on Southern Yakutia, in the following specific target areas: Neryunginsky ulus (district), reindeer herders village of Iengra; Aldansky ulus (district), reindeer herders village of Khatystyr; and Olekminsky ulus (district), Evenki villages of Tyanya and Tokko. There are around 100-200 people involved in reindeer herding in each of these three villages.

The number of Reindeer in Chukotka Okrug at January 1st 2012 reached 178,000 animals and there are more than 2,000 reindeer herders in the Chukotka region (http://www.chukotka.org/press_center/news/5044/), where specific target areas will be selected during the PPG phase.

The project will therefore directly contribute to increasing the capacity of disadvantaged nomadic herders communities to engage in and benefit from biodiversity conservation efforts and adapt to environmental and human-induced changes to the rangeland habitats they depend upon. The tools and partnerships developed through the project will increase their knowledge and understanding of policy and national decision-making processes that

affect the habitats they depend upon, and their livelihoods. The project will build competence locally in reindeer herders' communities, and this will enable them to define and articulate their concerns and improve their participation in local and regional decision-making processes with a view to securing access to and use of pastures and biological resources, migration routes, access to markets, sustainable pasture management, and ultimately increasing the sustainability and resilience of the pastoral communities to environmental and social changes. The project will engage and support both men and women as land degradation adds to the pressure on family-based reindeer husbandry to support their families under increasingly difficult physical, social, and economic conditions. A gender-disaggregated analysis will be conducted in the project preparation phase to document and address interests, needs and priorities within the nomadic herder's family structure. The project components will be based on the result of the analysis.

An additional expected benefit of the project is community empowerment, enabling nomadic herders community members to participate more fully as equal partners in information sharing, education and training, technology transfer, organizational development, and policy development, thereby gaining more access to commercial, social and political opportunities. The project will also facilitate interaction between state, local authorities, industry and nomadic herders, assisting in creating dialogue, building confidence and sharing information.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risks	Level	Mitigation strategy
<p>Community Cooperation and Participation A primary risk is that community participation in the project is ineffective/fails due to inadequate approaches being adopted.</p> <p>A second risk related to community participation is the language barriers and cultural understanding, which threatens the ability of the project to assess conditions and generate new knowledge, and replication within and across borders. An important dimension to this is the need to use local indigenous languages that frames traditional knowledge and understanding of the local herding systems and conditions.</p>	Medium	<p>Participatory approaches and clearly defined mechanisms for community participation will be adopted at the start of the project's preparatory phase and employed throughout the project to ensure that all elements are fully demand-driven and well-received. All existing ethical guidelines for linking into indigenous herding societies will be followed by the project (including the upcoming UNEP guidelines on this topic).</p> <p>The project model areas will be carefully selected by using a set of criteria and through a consultative screening process during the project preparatory phase. If needed the model areas could be changed in the late stage of the preparation phase or during project implementation using an adaptive strategy.</p> <p>The project will earmark adequate resources for interpretation, translations and preparatory work in conjunction with local partners.</p>
<p>Climate change impacts Nomadic pastoralism is in itself an adaptation to an unpredictable environment, where climate conditions are subject to a high degree of spatial variability. However, current rapid climate change in the selected model areas may exacerbate current land use problems and jeopardize the project results.</p>	Medium	<p>This project is designed to enhance the sustainability and resilience of communities engaged in nomadic pastoralism. Case-based assessment reports of the impacts of land-use and climate change, and the development of scenarios for medium to long-range forecasts, will help identify and mitigate risks. In addition, the training of community members in monitoring will help detect local-level climate risks and define adaptive responses.</p>
<p>Inability of the project and communities to engage with political and private sector interests Traditional land use areas, particularly</p>	Medium	<p>The project is designed to overcome some of the barriers within the private sector to engage effectively with local communities, by raising awareness levels in the private sector and providing a platform for open dialogue and</p>

in Russia, are located in zones of political and economic interest, in particular for oil, mineral and timber production. There is a risk that the project fails to engage effectively with these industries to improve land-use planning that directly affects nomadic pastoralists.		exchange of information. Similarly, the project has been designed to enhance the capacity of local communities in engaging in dialogue with the private sector, as well as with local, regional and national governments. In this respect, also proper contact with local authorities is important and will be addressed through the engagement with local authorities from the outset of the project.
Knowledge partnerships across borders are ineffective There is a risk that multi-stakeholder partnerships within and across national borders may fail, due to high accessibility/transport costs and/or political reasons.	Medium	Appropriate and realistic geographic targeting of project areas and budgeting of components will be undertaken to ensure that exchanges can be achieved in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Also, the participation of several international and neutral partners is expected to greatly facilitate contacts between representatives from both countries, also through other international fora and meetings where the Russian Federation and Mongolia are represented.
Competence on herding issues While there are many scholars and scientific institutions involved in ecosystem and environmental issues, there are very few of them with experience in reindeer herding. Even fewer have a cultural competence in herding. This might cause insufficient understanding of even core issues of reindeer herding and its challenges, thus hampering the achievement of project objectives.	Medium	The project will support the establishment and operation of an international advisory board on reindeer herding issues, in collaboration with the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH). This board will consist of reindeer herders from different regions. This board will offer insights and expert advice on reindeer husbandry and community involvement in the project, and will participate in all phases of project development, implementation and knowledge development. The project will also involve actively existing partner institutions and networks to secure professional and local competence, i.e. through the networks of WRH, IPY EALÁT Network Study, UArctic EALÁT Institute and UNEP/GRID-Arendal.
Sustainable results It is a challenge to secure that resources dedicated into the project contribute to not only short-term effects, but also to long-term effects towards the project goals. This way, the project's results could extend beyond the formal project period.	Medium	The challenge of achieving long-term sustainability will be at the forefront of project concerns and will be addressed at the local and national level from the project outset and throughout the project life-span. The project will seek to involve local reindeer herding youth in all phases of project planning and implementation, through WRH and local partners. The project should thus contribute to building experience and knowledge among those affected, especially targeting the local herding youth. The project will also review, analyse and disseminate its findings to other areas and sectors, through concerted outreach efforts towards partners, media and through the web. The project will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to secure local ownership and participation, both from local herding communities, local/national authorities and private sector.
Legitimacy issues	Medium	Indigenous people will be properly and actively

<p>The work of national international advisors with the remote, relatively small and fragmented local herding societies could raise the questions of legitimacy, primarily from the reindeer herding communities themselves, but also from local authorities and others.</p>		<p>involved in project management, planning and implementation.</p> <p>The project will invest adequate time and resources on local planning and careful involvement of indigenous communities, local authorities, knowledge institutions, private sector developers and others.</p> <p>The project will seek to ensure the full transparency of all project interventions, while also implementing codes of conduct and ethical guidelines for all relations with indigenous communities.</p>
--	--	--

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

The proposed project will involve key stakeholders through meetings, workshops and interviews during all phases of the project from preparation and design to implementation and evaluation. The stakeholders include the pastoral communities, local government, private sector companies and other parts of civil society. These stakeholders will provide data and information for project component 1, and will also be part of the target beneficiaries for components 2-3-4. There will be a number of community-based workshops, and there will be training and capacity building of local communities as well as policy makers and representatives from relevant private sector operating in the project sites. The reindeer herders' experience and traditional knowledge will provide critical inputs in order to develop appropriate strategies in project component 2. It is recognized that only with the support and cooperation of all key stakeholders, will the project achieve its objective. Hence, emphasis will be made to start building partnerships and establishing good dialogue with stakeholders in the preparation phase of the project.

The proposed project will be in accordance with the GEF Operational Strategy, Principle 7, by having the full "participation of beneficiaries and affected groups of people"¹⁷. The project is also in accordance with the UN Declaration for the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by involving Indigenous Peoples affected in all project phases, and will follow the new UNEP guidelines on involvement of Indigenous Peoples (in prep.).

Pastoral herders will be involved in the project on an individual level, through community representatives and through the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH) which will throughout all phases of the project make the basis for local partnership with herders and research institutions.

This project will be linked to and feed into the ongoing assessment of UNPFII on loss of pastures in reindeer husbandry in the circumpolar arctic and sub-arctic. It will also be seen in relation to the former assessment of UNPFII on reindeer herding and climate change.

Other important institutions that will contribute to the various components of the proposed project with support from and with the overall coordination of GRID-Arendal in collaboration UNEP will include:

Category	Stakeholders	Roles and Contributions
----------	--------------	-------------------------

¹⁷ GEF gender document

National Government and affiliated organizations	<p>Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia; Mongolian Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Ulaanbaatar; Taiga Nature Society (Mongolia);</p> <p>Ministry of natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation; All-Russian Institute of Nature Conservation (Russia); UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Saint-Petersburg office, Russia); Saint Petersburg State University (Russia);</p> <p>More relevant organisations will be identified for each specific target area, during the PPG phase.</p>	<p>The national governments and a wide range of government-affiliated institutions will play a major role in the project and contribute a significant baseline investment on which the GEF contribution will build upon. These will include, i.e.: National, regional and local level land-use and development planning processes and underlying government staff and infrastructure, including relevant legal expertise; National and local level academic research based on extensive data collection and analysis (both in terms of space and time series) on climatic and environmental parameters, wildlife management and natural resources management, reindeer husbandry, Indigenous language and traditional knowledge, Dukha culture, community monitoring, GIS and remote sensing, etc.</p>
International research institutions	<p>UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (Norway); Florida International University (USA); NASA Goddard Flight Space Centre (USA); Norwegian School of Veterinary Science (Norway); Norwegian Meteorological Institute (Norway)</p>	<p>International expertise and assistance on reindeer ecology, GIS and remote sensing, land degradation, climate change – including statistical downscaling of local climatic data, projecting future climate conditions through IPCC models, etc.</p>
Local and Indigenous Community Groups, including Women groups	<p>Association of World Reindeer Herders; International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, St Petersburg (Russia); International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (Norway); Centre for Taiga Reindeer Husbandry, Khatystyr, Aldan region, Sakha Republic (Russia); Centre for Tundra Reindeer Husbandry, Uryung-Khaya, Anabar region, Sakha Republic (Russia); Centre for Forest-Tundra Reindeer Husbandry, Olenek, Oleneksky region, Sakha Republic (Russia)</p> <p>More relevant local indigenous community groups, including women groups will be identified for each specific target area, during the PPG phase.</p>	<p>Participation in project consultations mechanisms and in project activities including policy dialogues and working groups at all stages including: project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.</p>
Private Sector	<p>The possible involvement of Private Sector will be explored during the PPG phase, focusing mainly on the tour operators and mining companies that may be interested in supporting the objectives of this project.</p>	<p>Possible participation in project consultations mechanisms and in project activities.</p>

International CSOs, conservation NGOs & other conservation-oriented partners	IUCN/ World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP); Arctic Council working group on Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna; Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (Russia); Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia (Russia), Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Culture and Conservation Programme	Will be involved in various biodiversity conservation and cultural values elements of the project including i.e.: monitoring and field research, development of conservation policies and legal instruments; assessment and evaluation of the ecosystem services provided by the model areas, and assessment of the inter-linkages between cultural and nature conservation values in the target areas. All such contributions will be defined in detail during the PPG.
International Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements	CBD Secretariat	Provide linkages with relevant international processes; provide guidance and technical expertise, if and as required; assist in showcasing the experience and achievements of the project in international fora.
UN and International Organisations	The possible involvement of other UN Agencies will be explored during the PPG phase, focusing mainly on the organisations that have, or have had, projects in our model areas. These organisations may include UNDP, IFAD, World Bank and others.	The specialised partner agencies could provide a wide range of technical in-kind contributions to the design and implementation of the project, including i.e.: linkages with parallel programmes of national and global nature and focusing on related issues; protected areas, conservation planning, environmental policy and climate change-related expertise; biodiversity databases, data analysis, decision-support and GIS systems, etc. The contributions of each partner organisations will be defined in detail during the PPG phase.

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

The project will be building on information gathered and experiences made in relevant initiatives focusing on pastoralists and land-degradation related issues in the region. Where relevant and possible, formal links will be established with some of these initiatives, through participation to respective consultative bodies and meetings/activities. These relevant initiatives include, i.e. (list to be expended during project preparation):

The World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP, <http://www.iucn.org/wisp/>) is coordinated by IUCN with the support from the GEF, UNDP, IFAD and others. WISP is a global advocacy and capacity building network that promotes sustainable pastoral development for both poverty reduction and environmental management. Through proposed activities, “Nomadic Herders” will complement the WISP engagement for advocacy, capacity building and networking, contributing to demonstrate pastoralists’ land use and system is an effective way of harnessing natural enabling rangeland resources, as well as enabling pastoralists to effectively adapt to anticipated land use and climate change. The IUCN/WISP team will also be engaged by GRIDA to provide specific direct technical inputs and support to the project components related to capacity building and the on-the-ground implementation of the community-led rangeland management plan(s) in the model area.

Another global GEF supported project is the FAO initiated Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS, <http://www.fao.org/nr/giahs/>). This project aims to establish the basis for international recognition, dynamic conservation and adaptive management of agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems, livelihood and cultures. Among the agricultural systems identified by the project, one was “specialized dryland systems including the remarkable pastoral

systems”¹⁸. While the GIAHS is piloting Maasai agro-pastoralism in Kenya and Tanzania, “Nomadic Herders” will focus on reindeer pastoralism.

The FAO-funded project “Capacity Building and Institutional Development of Participatory Natural Resources Management and Conservation in Forest Areas of Mongolia” (2007-2012) focuses on a number of forest areas that are important linkages between protected areas and concentrates on building the participatory capacity for natural resource management among local communities. UNDP is leading a project “Sustainable Land Management for Combating Desertification in Mongolia” (<http://www.undp.mn/snrm-slmcd.html>) where the overall goal of the project is to combat land degradation and desertification in Mongolia in order to protect and restore ecosystems and essential ecosystem services that are key to reducing poverty with a focus integrated natural resource management involving pastoral institutions.

The World Bank funds the Gansu and Xinjiang Pastoral Development Project (which included a GEF-funded component) with the objectives are to improve the lives and livelihoods of herders and farmers in the project areas through the establishment of improved grassland management, livestock production and marketing systems while promoting the sustainable utilization of pastoral resources.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSCContentServer/WDSP/IB/2002/10/12/000094946_02101004015767/Rendered/PDF/multi0page.pdf + <http://www.agriteam.ca/projects/profile/gansu-and-xinjiang-pastoral-development-project-monitoring-and-evaluation/>

The experience of the recently completed UNDP project “Community-based Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mountain Landscapes of Mongolia's Altai Sayan Ecoregion” was carefully reviewed and will be fully taken into account in the design and implementation of this project.

IFAD leads the initiative on the “Mongolia Livestock Sector Adaptation Project” with the objective to increase the resilience of Mongolian livestock system to changing climatic conditions by strengthening the adaptive capacity of the livestock system as well as the capacity of herders' groups to cope with climate change impact. <http://www.adaptationlearning.net/sites/default/files/mong%20pif.pdf>

The project also builds upon the experience and recommendations from the UNEP/GEF project An Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in Three Selected Model Areas in the Russian Arctic (ECORA), that was also executed through Grid Arendal, the Russian Government and several other partners. (<http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=1163>).

The project is linking to International Polar Year EALAT-Network Study and University of the Arctic EALAT Institute of Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (www.ealat.org , www.reindeerportal.org), supported by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. The Institute also recently developed educational programs for reindeer herders youth, focusing on impact assessments. The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) in Norway and UArctic EALAT Institute Norway will also contribute with co-financing through their partnership with institutions such as Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, and new funding opportunities for educational and research cooperation between Russia and Norway.

The project is also envisioned to contribute to the Arctic Council Sustaining Arctic Observation Networks process (<http://www.arcticobserving.org/>) as well as the NASA/ WRH Reindeer Mapper project (<http://www.sustainabilityscience.org/content.html?contentid=732>) – see also below under section C.

In Mongolia, the project will also coordinate development and implementation with the recently approved UNDP/GEF project “Network of Managed Resource Protected Areas”, executed by Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism (GEF ID 4562), with project objective: “Catalysing the strategic expansion of Mongolia's PA system through establishment of a network of Managed Resource Protected Areas in under-represented terrestrial ecosystems, catering for the dual objectives of biodiversity conservation and livelihood enhancement”.

In the Russian federation, the project will also coordinate with the GEF/UNEP Biodiversity project being developed under the GEF-Russian Federation Arctic Programme (Arctic Agenda 2020), executed by the

¹⁸ Range/pastoral systems based on adaptive use of pasture, water, salt and forest resources through mobility and herd composition in harsh non-equilibrium environments with high animal genetic diversity and outstanding cultural landscapes. These include highland, tropical and sub-tropical dryland and arctic systems such as Yak based pastoral management in Ladakh, high Tibetan plateau, India and parts of Mongolia and Yemen; Cattle and mixed animal based pastoral systems, such as of the Maasai in East Africa; and Reindeer based management of tundra and temperate forest areas in Siberia, such as Saami and Nenets. (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/giahs/PDF/GIAHS_B_terminalReport.pdf)

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

UNEP is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. The 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environmental Forum adopted Decision 25/10 “accords UNEP the mandate to continue to facilitate discussions on strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services”. UNEP possesses a broad environmental perspective, expertise in linking climate change to other environment and development issues and a mandate that allows it both to work on normative frameworks and to undertake activities on the ground in developing countries, building from a science-based approach strongly supported by a network of world-class scientific institutions and UNEP collaborating centers. In the area of adaptation planning, for example, mobilizing knowledge is vital to the success of integrating adaptation into development. UNEP can make this happen because it offers comparative strength in scientific assessment and an ability to harness knowledge for adaptation planning and to increase capacity to ensure ecosystem resilience, building on its links to science networks. UNEP's comparative advantage also includes its ability to serve as a broker in multi-stakeholder consultations. UNEP's flagship programme on ecosystem-based adaptation with the objective *to build the resilience of ecosystems that are most vulnerable to climate change, and maximize ecosystem services for adaptation in developing countries, through technical, policy and financial interventions* supports the goal of the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area. UNEP has assisted Mongolia in state of the environment reporting and is managing and developing a sizeable portfolio of ongoing and upcoming projects in BD, LD and CC in Russia. The UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch in the UNEP Division of Regional Cooperation has a long track-record and maintains close contacts with major Indigenous Groups worldwide, including nomadic herders groups. The involvement of the UNEP MGSB will ensure two-way linkages between the project partners and relevant global fora and platforms where Indigenous Peoples issues are discussed at the international level.

UNEP will oversee the coordinated inputs from a range of key national and international partners with specific experience on the conservation of biodiversity and pasture ecosystems inhabited by nomadic reindeer herders. These will be coordinated by GRID Arendal and will work closely with the Ministries of Environment in both project target countries. GRID-Arendal (www.grida.no) was established in 1989 by the Governing Council of UNEP and the Norwegian Minister of the Environment. Today, GRID-Arendal is one of the main collaborating institutes of UNEP. GRID-Arendal's overarching role is to support informed decision making and awareness raising through environmental information management and assessment; capacity building services; and outreach and communication tools, methodologies and products. Through a dynamic portfolio of projects, GRID-Arendal partners with various organizations to facilitate free access to and exchange of information in support of decision making and to promote a sustainable future. GRID-Arendal has long experience working in Russia and Central Asia on issues related to integrated ecosystem management (e.g., through the GEF funded project ECORA), indigenous peoples issues (e.g., cooperation with RAIPON), etc.

GRID-Arendal's specific experience: GRID-Arendal has a large portfolio of projects, many of which are conducted through on the ground participatory work with local communities. GRIDA is i.e. quite experienced in facilitating stakeholder dialogues and workshops, conducting participatory mapping exercises, training youth and others in e.g. photography and other ways of expressing environmental concerns. GRID-Arendal was executing agency of the GEF/UNEP ECORA project, which included also training of trainers for local stakeholders in target areas in integrated ecosystem management, state of the environment, and other types of environmental assessment work. More recently (2011), GRID-Arendal coordinated a community-based workshop in Tsagaannuur, northern Mongolia and led a field visit to a reindeer herder camp in the East Taiga to collect information and recommendations which the PIF is built on. The results from these activities are presented in a report that will be launched 26 March 2012 (the report can be seen here: http://dev.grida.no/mongolia/layout/ChangingTaiga_scr.pdf).

GRID Arendal and partner national Governments of Mongolia and the Russian Federation will work closely with the **International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR)** to support and coordinate project

execution. The ICR is a knowledge hub for providing and exchanging information and knowledge between different reindeer peoples, national authorities and research and academic communities at the national and international levels. The Centre contributes to adding value, to improving information and to enhancing understanding for world reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples, their traditional knowledge, climate change and their future development. ICR works with the whole range of knowledge challenges for circumpolar reindeer husbandry, also initiating research in relevant areas connected to a unique network of scientific and indigenous institutions. ICR's international target groups are reindeer herders, national authorities, research, education and knowledge institutions, organizations and industrial interests. The centre works closely together with the **Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)**, the international NGO for reindeer herders representing over 20 indigenous reindeer peoples and about 100,000 reindeer herders in 9 different national states with observer status in Arctic Council and ECOSOC status in UN. The ICR is also a member of University of the Arctic.

While being established by the Norwegian Government as a support to the international cooperation between world reindeer herders, ICR is formally organised as a so-called Norwegian State Entity with Special Authority. The primary reason for this is of practical nature, that the Norwegian Government needs such an entity to be able to transfer the basic funding coming from the Norwegian State budget. The Special Authority status of ICR makes it professionally independent. There are in other words no possibilities for the Norwegian Government to instruct the centre's Board as the supreme professional body of ICR. The ICR has very stringent measures against corruption and in particular in related to implementation of international projects. **The partner network of ICR has worked in Russia and Mongolia for over 20 years and has representatives among reindeer herders permanently based in each target areas of this project.** The ICR is connected to the Norwegian Government, that appoints the Board of ICR in deliberation with Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH), the international NGO for reindeer herding peoples. The Board of ICR consists of representatives from reindeer husbandry in Fennoscandia and Finland, research and educational institutions. **The Board has a majority of reindeer herders with strong traditional indigenous knowledge.** It has the superior responsibility for ICR's professional activity and economy. The staff of ICR is located at the main office in Kautokeino, Norway, and the representation offices in Northern Finland, Northern Russia (3) and Toronto, Canada. ICR is also hosting the **Secretariat for Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)**, offering professional and administrative support to the Association and its international operations.

Examples of ICR experience: ICR project leaders have long term experience in coordinating and administrating large international research and community development projects in indigenous peoples' societies in the Arctic. ICR has a unique experience in local logistic operations in remote areas in the Arctic. The team that will support the execution of the present project has for example just recently finished a large IPY project IPY EALAT # 399 Climate change and reindeer husbandry with participation from Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway Canada and USA, including institution like NASA Goddard flight space centre in USA and St Petersburg State University in Russia. Through IPY the ICR has held 21 community-based workshops in Siberia and Northern Europe, and developed unique network locally of reindeer herders, and three information centres were opened in Sakha Yakutia, that will provide an important mechanism for this project to build new competence locally in the focal areas which will be investigated. The ICR team also participates as authors in IPCC. The ICR has also developed training programmes in Adaptation to Globalization in the Arctic and impact assessments. Courses have been tailored for both university students and students with only practical experience like reindeer herders. The courses are provided in classrooms and online, and in the tundra.

The Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH): Since 1990 reindeer herders developed a unique network in 9 national states and have a significant history of people-to-people cooperation. In 1990 the idea of the international organization which could unite reindeer herders all over the world was born in Topolnoe when for the first time Sami reindeer herders have visited Even reindeer herders of Sakha (Yakutia). At that meeting they decided to hold a Reindeer Peoples Festival. In September 1993 the Sami Reindeers Herders Association of Norway (NBR/NRL) organized an international Reindeer Peoples' Festival in Tromsø, in cooperation with the Russian Government and reindeer herders from Russia. Approximately 360 representatives from reindeer husbandry regions in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia and Alaska participated in the Festival. This was the first time in history that different reindeer peoples were able to meet with each other. This event marked the beginning of a unique cross-border cooperation between circumpolar reindeer peoples which advocated the establishment of the Association of World Reindeer Herders. The First World Reindeer Herders' Congress took place in the city of Nadym, in the Yamal region of Russia, in 1997, and was hosted and funded by the Russian government together with the

regional authorities in the Yamal Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Participants included representatives from reindeer husbandry in the Nordic countries and Russia. The Congress resulted in the establishment of the Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH). The aim of the association is to promote professional, cultural, social and economic relations between world reindeer peoples, as well as to disseminate information about the reindeer husbandry. The establishment of WRH provided reindeer herders with a forum for contact and cooperation, which contributed to bringing reindeer husbandry onto the international agenda. Already in 1999, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Knut Vollebæk, took the initiative to add reindeer husbandry on the agenda of the international Arctic cooperation, which resulted in WRH being granted Observer status to Arctic Council. In 2001, the Second World Reindeer Herders' Congress was held in Anar (Inari), in Northern Finland and was funded by the Finnish Government. The Congress adopted the 'Anar-Declaration', which is the first circumpolar statement developed by reindeer herders, and presents guidelines for the development of a sustainable reindeer husbandry for the future. The Third World Reindeer Herders' Congress took place in the city of Yakutsk, in the Russian Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in March 2005. The Congress adopted the 'Yakutsk-Declaration', which emphasizes reindeer husbandry's participation in the international cooperation in Arctic. The Congress was hosted and funded by the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and was part of an impressive campaign regarding the profile of reindeer husbandry and the Indigenous Peoples' of the Republic. The most recent WRH Congress was held in Guovdageaidnu / Kautokeino in Norway in 2009. In 2013 the Congress will be held in China where the GEF Nomadic Herders will present preliminary findings and do other types of outreach activities. Today the Association of World Reindeer Herders has Special Consultative status with UN ECOSOC and observer status in Arctic Council. It has member organizations in reindeer herding regions. In Russia these include the Russian Union of Reindeer Herders and regional NGOs of reindeer herders.

WRH experience: in order to implement Nomadic Herders GEF project on the ground WRH can provide the support of local communities of reindeer herders and their network of local NGOs. During the past 20 years of this unique cooperation the WRH developed a broad network of locally based reindeer herder's organizations and local authorities that will be instrumental in supporting the execution of this project in the target areas, including, i.e:

- Association of Reindeer Herders of Sakha Republic
- Union of obshinas of indigenous peoples in Southern Yakutia
- Information Centre for Taiga Reindeer Husbandry
- Anna Naykanchina - member of UNPFII, vice-president of RAIPON, member of the
- Bair Baldanov - the governor of Okinsky region of the Republic of Buryatia
- Mayor of Khatystyr
- Mayor of Iengra

The parallel EALLIN Reindeer Herders Youth is an Arctic Council project led by the Association of World Reindeer Herders and Russia. The project works towards knowledge building and experience exchange in and between local reindeer herding societies in the Arctic, with the emphasis on youth participation and engagement. Project Activities include local capacity building on impact assessments, networking, dialogue between herders and industry, as well as circumpolar co-production of video and multimedia by youth. The objective of the project is the protection of the Arctic biodiversity and the sustainable development of the Arctic indigenous societies by building youth competence and networks across the reindeer herding regions.

Other project partners will include the **IUCN World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP)**, <http://www.iucn.org/wisp/>) is coordinated by IUCN with the support from the GEF, UNDP, IFAD and others. WISP is a global advocacy and capacity building network that promotes sustainable pastoral development for both poverty reduction and environmental management. The IUCN/WISP team will be engaged by GRIDA to provide specific direct technical inputs and support to the project components related to capacity building and the on-the-ground implementation of the community-led rangeland management plan(s) in the model area. The nexus between cultural values and biodiversity conservation will also be supported by technical inputs on design and monitoring and evaluation aspects of the project provided by **Fauna and Flora International (FFI)'s emerging Cultural Values and Conservation Programme** the also build upon extensive prior experience of field work with nomadic pastoralists and other indigenous peoples on biodiversity conservation within and outside protected areas (for more info: www.fauna-flora.org).

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

GRID-Arendal as a UNEP Institute will contribute significant co-financing in two ways: (a) through dedicated cash co-financing provided by the Governments of Norway that will directly complement project activities, and (b) significant additional co-financing will be mobilized through the involvement of a wide range of executing partners and collaborating organisations at the international level as well as in Russia and Mongolia.

The UNEP will also contribute co-financing through its core activities implemented under the PoW and particularly by the following UNEP divisions: UNEP-DRC-Stakeholders Branch (inclusion of project stakeholders in the Indigenous Peoples Network), UNEP-DEWA and UNEP/WCMC (initial assessments, GIS and remote sensing), UNEP-DEPI ESE (Ecosystem Services Valuation and Scenario-Planning tools developed by other UNEP projects). The total value of the above contributions GRIDA and UNEP is estimated in table I.C of this PIF. (co-financing).

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The project objective will support the UNDAF 2007-2011 for Mongolia. The UNDAF-Mongolia identifies *improving natural resources and environmental management*¹⁹ as one of four aspects of the development process that require immediate actions. The project clearly complements the role and mandate set forth in UNEP's Programme of Work (PoW). In particular, for the 2012-13 biennium, this project will contribute to the achievement of PoW outputs 313, 321 and 333. The relevant elements of the UNEP PoW that are supported by the project are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1

Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)		UNEP Thematic Priority Areas					
		Climate change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues	X		X	X		
	Science to Policy linkages			X	X		
	Environmental monitoring and assessment	X		X	X		
	Norms, standards, and guidelines	X		X	X		
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies						
2. Cooperation, coordination and partnerships	Trans-boundary cooperation			X	X		
	Regional, or South-South			X	X		

¹⁹ http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8406-Mongolia_UNDAF_for_2007-2011.pdf

(regional or international)	cooperation						
	Global transformative actions						
3. Technical assistance and capacity building at country level (contribution to Bali Strategic Plan)	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation			X			
	Capacity building			X	X		
	Lifting barriers to market transformation						
4. Knowledge management, awareness raising and advocacy		X		X	X		


The UNEP and GRID-Arendal will support project implementation and execution through (a) development and implementation of a project supervision and M&E plan that will include periodical site visits and participation to Steering Committee Meetings and stakeholder consultations in both countries, (b) engagement of the Moscow-based UNEP office to support activities in the Russian Federation.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

- A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Altangerel ENKHBAT	Director of Ecologically Clean Technology and Science Division, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF NATURE, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM OF MONGOLIA	11/25/2011
Mr Rinat GIZATULIN	Deputy Minister, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	11/29/2011

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		04/06/2012	Edoardo Zandri, Task Manager, BD, UNEP Nairobi	+254 20 762 4380	edoardo.zandri@unep.org

Annex I: Biodiversity

Significant species of the Altai-Sayan Region (Mongolia and Russia)²⁰

Species	Status (IUCN red list)	Conservation Actions
Mongolian Saiga (<i>Saiga tatarica</i>)	Critically Endangered	The Mongolian Saiga has been legally protected since 1930. Two protected areas, Sharga NR (286,900 ha) and Mankhan NR (30,000 ha), were designated in 1993 to protect most of the remaining areas of occurrence. Extension of already existing and new protected areas is under discussion by the Russian Federation government.
Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	Endangered	Included on CITES Appendix I (as <i>Uncia uncia</i>). Is legally protected from hunting by national legislation across most of its 12 range states. (McCarthy <i>et al.</i> 2003).
Altai Argali (<i>Ovis ammon ammon</i>)	Vulnerable	Non informed
Dalmatian Pelican (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>)	Vulnerable	CITES Appendix I. CMS Appendix I and II. One of the Conservation action proposed in Mongolia is finding alternatives to traditional use of pelican bills.
Goitered gazelle (<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>)	Vulnerable	Legally protected in most range states, although enforcement is not universally effective. The species occurs in many protected areas across its range. The species has been reintroduced to various parts of its former range.
Relict Gull (<i>Larus relictus</i>)	Vulnerable	CITES Appendix I. CMS Appendix I. It is protected from hunting in Russia. A nature reserve was established to protect breeding sites in Alakol' lake (Kazakhstan). Breeding sites in Russia are protected in the Tsasuchey-Torey Sanctuary and several localities in Mongolia are Ramsar Sites.
Sable (<i>Martes zibellina</i>)	Vulnerable	Hunting entirely prohibited between 1953 and 2000 but is currently permitted between October and February. Approximately 20% of the species' range in Mongolia occurs within protected areas.
Siberian musk deer (<i>Moschus moschiferus</i>)	Vulnerable	In Russia it is present in a number of protected areas. Approximately 13% of the species' range in Mongolia occurs within protected areas. The following conservation measures are in place in Mongolia: □ More than 1.5 million hectares of the range of this species is included within Horgo Terkhii Tsagaan Nuur National Park (Hangai Mountain Range), Hövsgöl Nuur National Park (Hövsgöl Mountain Range), and Gorkhi Terelj National Park, Bogd Khan Uul Strictly Protected Area, and Khan Hentii Strictly Protected Area in Hentii Mountain Range (Wemmer, 1998).
Wild reindeer (<i>subspecies R.t. valentinae</i>)	Vulnerable	Protected as Very Rare under part 7.1 of the Mongolian Law on Fauna (2000) and Very rare under the 1995 Mongolian Hunting Law.
Altai Snowcock (<i>Tetrao gallus altaicus</i>)	Least concern	Non informed
Eurasian Elk (<i>Alces alces</i>)	Least concern	It is listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention. It occurs in a large number of protected areas across its range (Wemmer 1998, EMA Workshop 2006). The species is subject to intense management in some countries through hunting quotas (e.g. in Finland: Ruusila and Kojola in press). It is protected under national legislation in a number of countries (e.g. Germany).
Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>)	Least Concern	The species is threatened by habitat degradation through drainage and pollution ¹ (e.g. chlorinated hydrocarbons), and is especially affected by the disappearance of reed swamps due to agricultural and hydroelectric development.
Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	Least concern	It is protected under Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Subspecies <i>C. e. corsicanus</i> is strictly protected under Appendix II of the Bern Convention and Annexes II* and IV of the EU Habitats and Species Directive. It occurs in numerous protected areas across its range and also in protected areas outside its range where it has been introduced.
Siberian ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>)	Least concern	Conservation measures proposed included creating an adequate protected areas system for ibex in central and eastern regions of Eastern Sayan, and stopping poaching, with special effort made in areas with currently heavy exploitation. In Mongolia, ibex is a legally protected as a Rare species under the Mongolian Law on Fauna and the Mongolian Hunting Law (Wingard and Odgerel 2002). No general hunting is allowed, but a limited amount of licensed trophy hunting is permitted. The species is listed as Near Threatened in most recent Mongolian Red List (Clark <i>et al.</i> 2006)

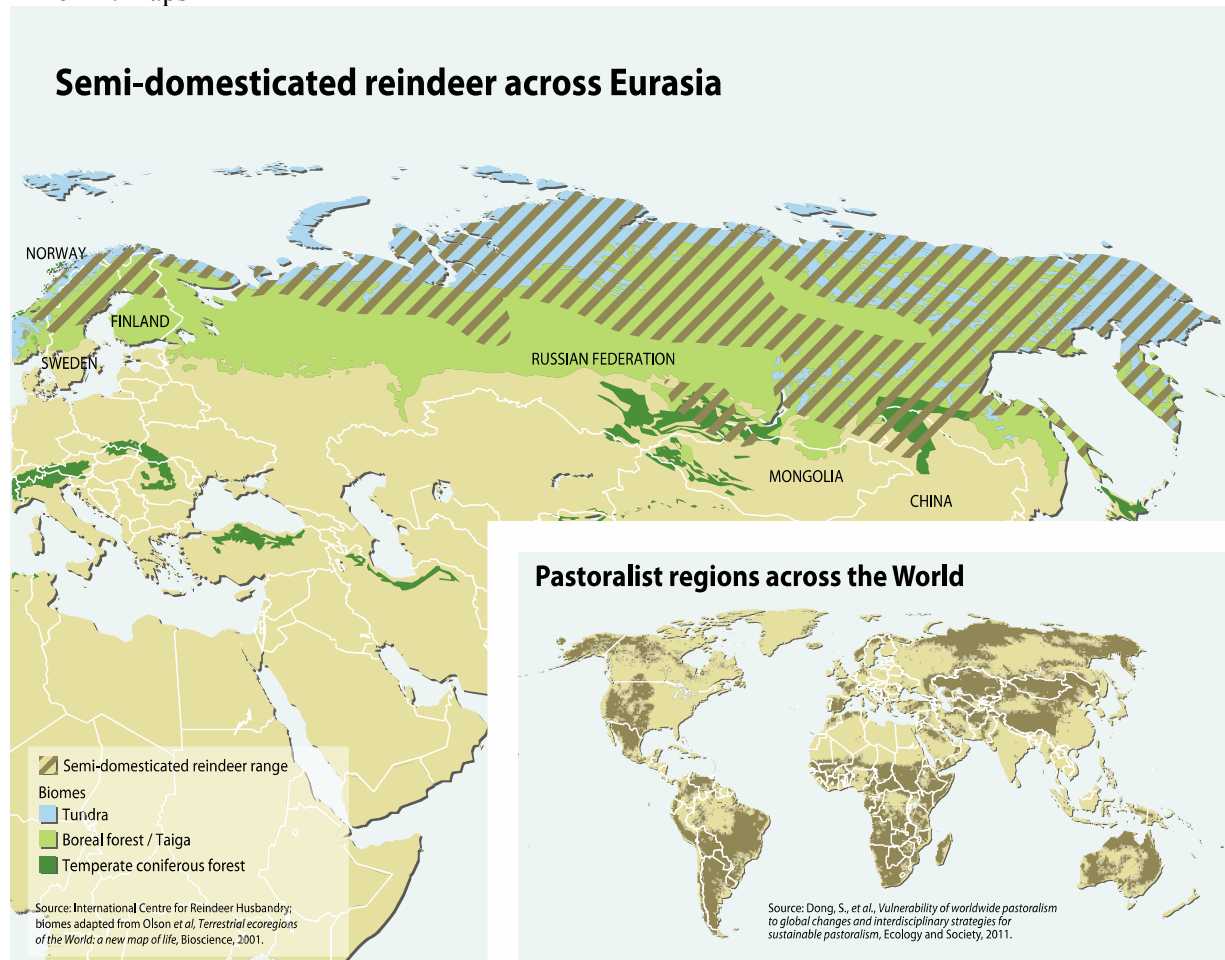
²⁰ Source: IUCN Red List and CITES Appendix I (ref for footnote), available at: <http://www.cites.org/common/com/AC/16/E16-Inf-15.pdf>

The 17 ecosystems of the Altai-Sayan Region (Mongolia and Russia)²¹

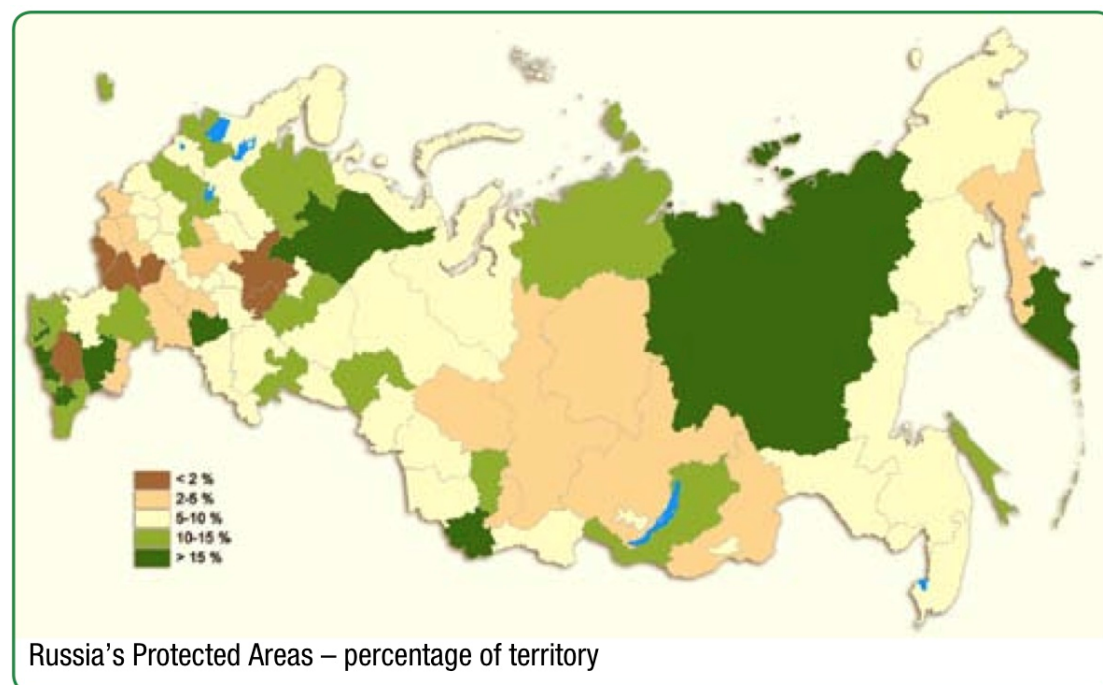
Alpine meadow
Alpine tundra
Boreal coniferous forest
Closed depressions, Salt banks
Desert steppe
Dry steppe
Glacier
High mountain steppe
Intermittent rivers and ephemeral channels
Lake
Meadow steppe
Moderate dry steppe
Perennial rivers and floodplains
Sand dunes
Semi-desert
Sub-alpine woodland
Sub-boreal mixed forest
True desert

²¹ Source: WWF (2010) Filling the Gaps to Protect the Biodiversity on Mongolia, available at <http://mongolia.panda.org/en/?200853/Filling-the-GAPS-to-Protect-the-Biodiversity-of-Mongolia>

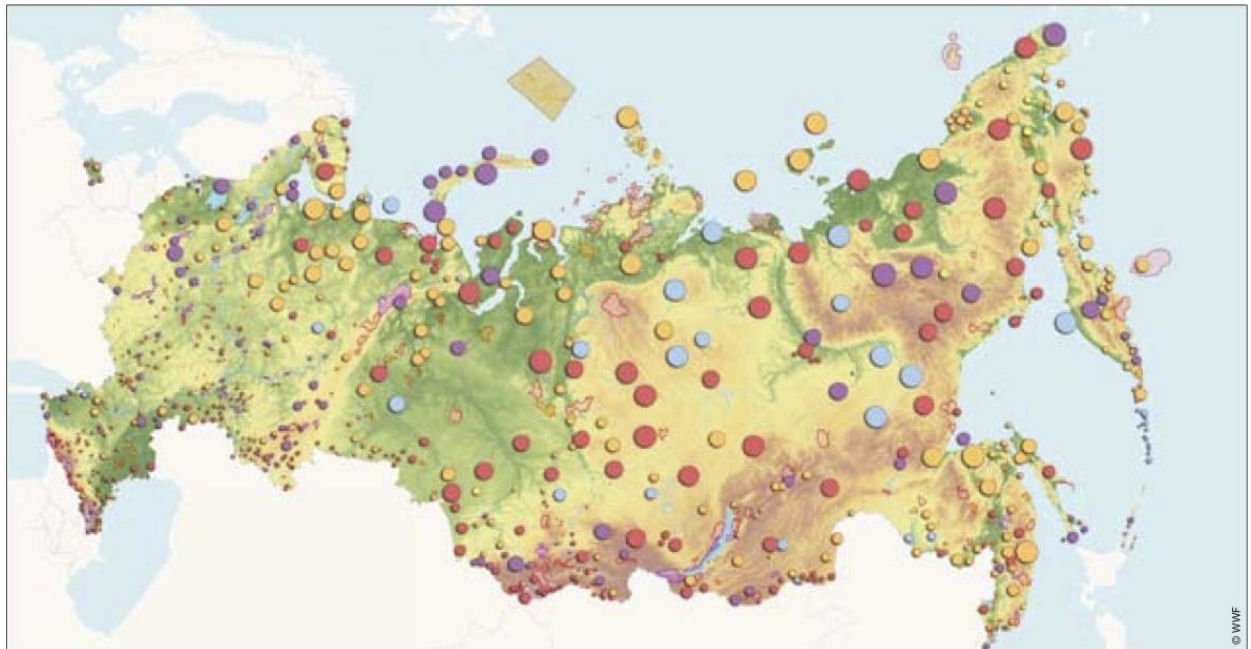
Annex II: maps



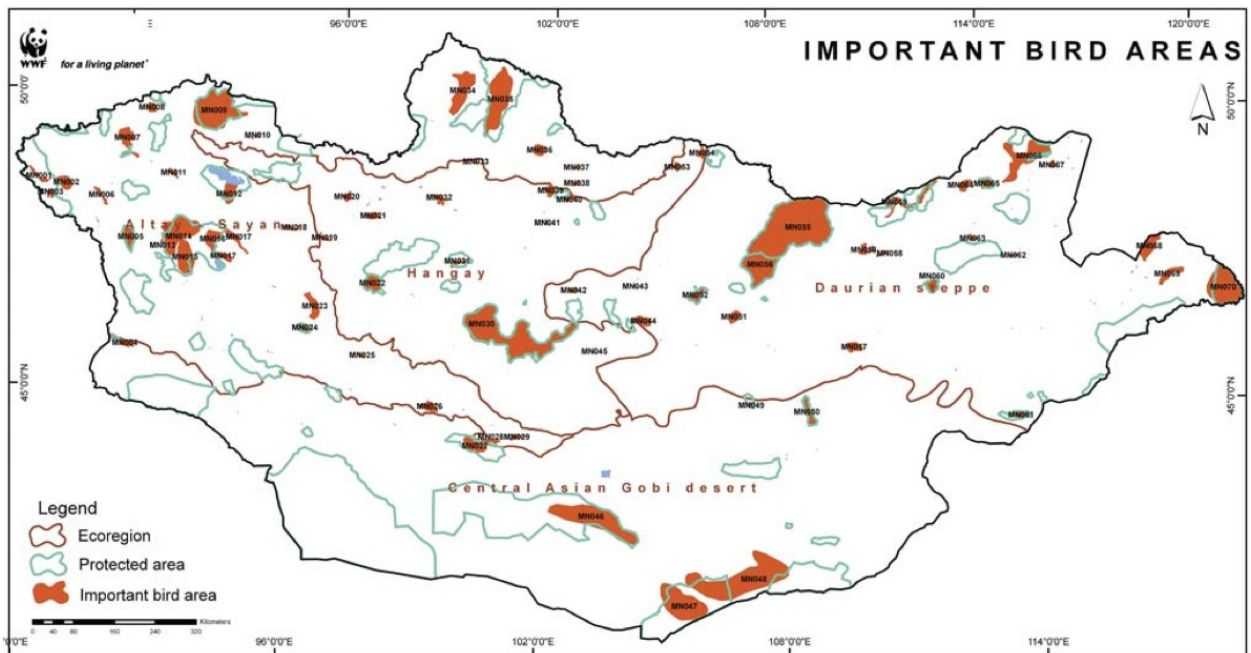
Source: UNEP/GRID-Arendal



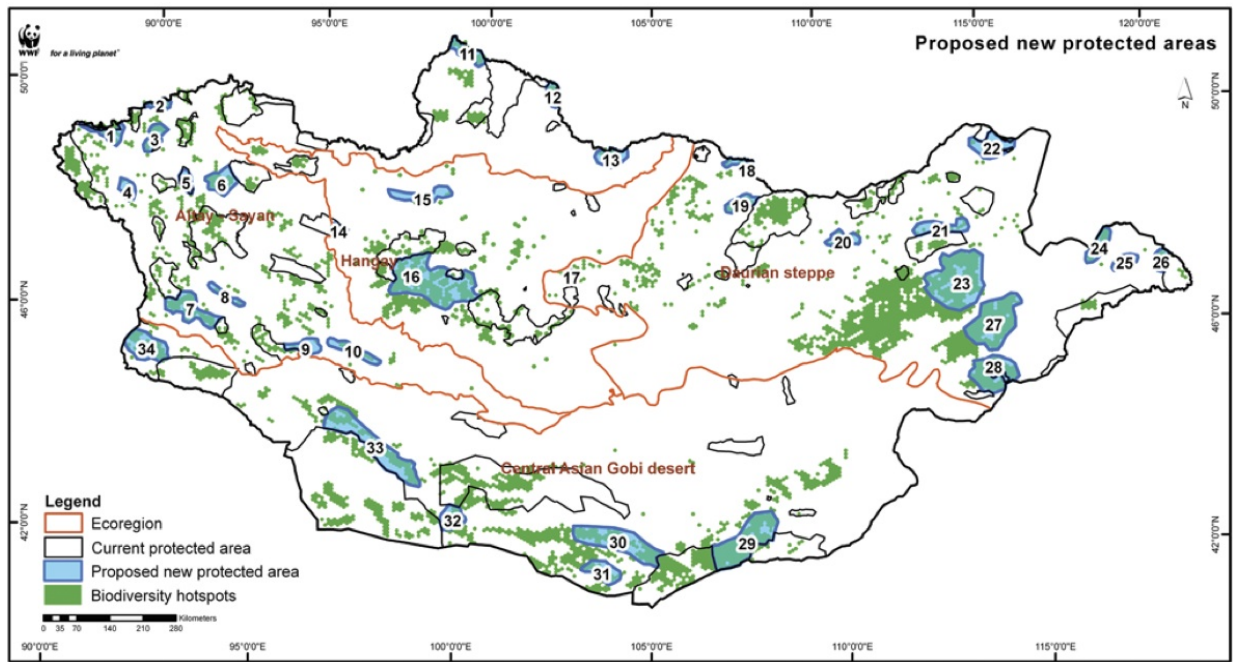
Source: WWF online factsheet: Russia's Boreal Forests



Source: Hogan, Duncan and McLellan (2010) *Protected Area Networks – cornerstone of development: Making it happen!* WWF



Source: WWF (2010) *Filling the Gaps to Protect the Biodiversity of Mongolia*



Source: WWF (2010) *Filling the Gaps to Protect the Biodiversity of Mongolia*