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| UNOP's project | 00078317, Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem |
| Reference | RFQ/EMO/2013-053(IWC-00078317) |
| Study options | NGO Network “Friends of Baikal Basin” conception designing and implementation, Mongolia |
| Duration | 10 January-30 June 2014 |
| Submission date | 20 June 2014 |

The report on network establishment of the NGOs that work on environment in the Baikal lake and Selenge river basin

There have been organized several consultative meeting among that work on environment in the Baikal lake and Selenge river basin.

The consultative meeting held in country side have been in formal discussions rather the discussion of “concepts”. Public organization work at soum level are mostly forest communities. In other words there is was not many registered NGOs. Non the less there are quite number of registered NGOs in Muren which is centre of Khuvsgul aimag.

In general the Forest communities and NGOs are appreciated the concept is useful document to collaborate NGOs. However in majority if the cases the Community Based Organizations (CBO) and NGOs somehow understood that the “network” is kind of entity to provide financial support to local NGOs. After the discussion, the “network” is not an entity that provide any technical and financial support to particular CBO and NGO but this is a way to support each other in their interest and fundraising if necessary, most of them were not willing to join the network. Also there were not much comments on the concept. In total 131 participants have been attended the meeting and only 27 are agreed to join the network.

The meeting held in Ulaanbaatar organized with a National Water Committee of Mongolia. In the Meeting expert representatives of the NGOs, have attended Secretary and specialist of National Water Committee, senior officer of the River basin division of the Ministry of Nature and Green Development, officer who responsible for NGOs of Ministry

of Nature and Green Development, Technical director and finance officer of the Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem. In total 42 NGOs and CBOs that work on environment in the Baikal lake and Selenge river basin the have been joined so far in the NGO network on the base of the meeting country side as well as Ulaanbaatar. Number of participants and number of NGOs joined the network are given in table 1 and list of NGOs joined the network is given in Table 2:

Table 1. Number of participants and number of NGOs joined the network

| Aimag | Soum | Number of Participants | Number of NGOs joined the Network | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Zavkhan | Ider | 4 | 1 | |
| | Telmen | 6 | 2 | |
| | Mkskntsengsl | 8 | 2 | |
| | Inkh-uul | 5 | 1 | |
| | Khuvsgul | Jargalant | 6 | 1 |
| | | Galt | 5 | 1 |
| | | Shine-Ider | 3 | |
| | | Tumerbulag | 2 | - |
| | | Muren | 8 | 3 |
| | | Tunel | 4 | - |
| Bulgan | Alag-Erdene | 5 | - | |
| | Khatgal | 2 | 1 | |
| | Chandmani-Under | 5 | 1 | |
| | Tsagaan-Uur | 3 | 1 | |
| | Erdenemandal | 2 | - | |
| | Tarialan | 4 | - | |
| | Selenge | Khutag-Under | 2 | 1 |
| | | Teshig | 3 | 1 |
| | | Bulgan | 3 | 1 |
| | Uverkhangai | Eree | 12 | 3 |
| Bugant | | 10 | - | |
| Dulaankhaan | | 6 | - | |
| Khuder | | 15 | 3 | |
| Mandal | | 5 | 2 | |
| Darkhan-Uul | Darkhan | 4 | 1 | |
| Uverkhangai | Kharkhorin | 3 | 1 | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-----|----|
| Ulaanbaatar | | 22 | 15 |
| Total | | 153 | 42 |

Table 2. The list of NGOs and CBOs that joined so far in the NGO Network “Friends of Baikal Basin”

| | Name of NGOs | Location | Activities | Address | Contacts |
|----|---|-------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | Committee of civil society organisation in Khuvsgul aimag | Khuvsgul-Muren | Support activities of NGOs, impact of Government decision making, conduct study and training, public awareness activities | 99385577 | M.Sarangerel |
| 2 | Inguunharan | Khusgul-Chandmani-Under | Protect springs and mineral water | 89180338 | Naran |
| 3 | Tsakhir | Khusgul-Tsagaan-Uur | Protect springs and mineral water | 93278652 | Galchuluun |
| 4 | Khuvsgul tourirs, information and communication | Khuvsgul-Muren | Sopprt sustainable tourism ⁸ protect environment, public awareness activities | 99382050 huvsgul_info@yahoo.com | G.Tseepil |
| 5 | Association of Altai-Sayan conservation communities | Khuvsgul-Khatgal | Conservation of Altai-Sayan region with participation of communities | 95864005 | S.Narantsetseg |
| 6 | Blue water lake | Khuvsgul-Muren | Protet environment, study and environment impact assessment | 99388829, 96388829 | Ouyntsetseg |
| 7 | Ugii-lake-my country | Uverkhangai-Kharkhorin | Protect Ugii lake and support women’s activity | 93178629 | S.Jargal |
| 8 | Bayankhangai | Khusvul-Galt | Forest protection and management | 98384405 | B.Nasanjargal |
| 9 | Ikh savag | Khusvul-Jargalant | Forest protection and management | 93142842 | A.Amarsukh |
| 10 | Mongolia family promosion | Bulgan-Bulgan | Support family sustainabiliy | 96901923 | D.Unemandakh |
| 11 | Mongol direction | Bulgan-Khantai | Study and public awareness | 89791777 | M.Bat-Erdene |
| 12 | Khargal lake | Bulgan-Teshig | Protection of lake | 91208740 | D.Tseren-Ochir |
| 13 | Ugeemer | Zavkhan-Tosontsengel | Forest protection and management | 89862051 | Kh.Ochirsukh |
| 14 | Bayjikh | Завхан-Тосонцэнгэл | Forest protection and management | 99073146 | J.Batsaikhan |
| 15 | Undert | Zavkhan-Ikhuul | Forest protection and management | 93012558 | Ch.Ganbat |
| 16 | Asgat | Zavkhan-Telmen | Forest protection and management | 93062526 | P.Ganbaatar |
| 17 | Tegshrekhbuyan | Zavkhan-Telmen | Forest protection and management | 89509079 | M.Suren |
| 18 | Mandakh naran | Zavkhan-Ider | Forest protection and management | 93045746 | O.Odgerel |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|------------------|
| 19 | Khuder Khaliu | СЭЛЭНГЭ-Хүдэр | Forest protection and management | 98222471 | B.Zorigtbokh |
| 20 | Namuun baigal | Selenge-Khuder | Forest protection and management | 93029236 | B.Bolotuul |
| 21 | Bayanshugui | Selenge-Eree, bag-2 | Forest protection and management, rehabilitation | 99739775 | B.Tsetsegee |
| 22 | Gurvan gol | Selenge-Eree, bag-2 | Forest protection and management | | E.Erdeneochir |
| 23 | Jim Eree buleg undrakh ereel kholboo | Selenge-Eree, bag-1 | Arable land development | 95373066, 99834527, | B.Bayarsaikhan |
| 24 | Baigal eej | Selenge Mandal | Forest protection and management | 99770573 | Kh.Unenbayar |
| 25 | Nutag-uul | Selenge Mandal | Forest protection and management | 99244946 | B.Togmokhsaikhan |
| 26 | Shine Kharaa gol | Darkhan sun | Promote community participation in protection of the Kharaa river | 99113243, 99117988 | D.bayrkhuu |
| 27 | Khuder gol | Selenge-Khuder soum, bag-2, Khaikhanyi 10 | Promote community participation in protection of the Khuder river | 91197275, khuder_gol@yahoo.com | G.Bayaraa |
| 28 | Mongolia Water Forum Uskhelts | Ulaanbaatar | Ус, байгалийн нөөцийн менежмент, уур амьсгалын өөрчлөлт, сургалт сурталчилгаа | 99305688 info@mongoliawaterforum.com | P.Batimaa |
| 29 | Ecology-water resources | Ulaanbaatar | Ground water resources study | jadambaanabjil@yahoo.com | N.Jadambaa |
| 30 | Water print | Ulaanbaatar | Water resources | 99991249 gerelch_i@yahoo.com | J.Gerelchuluun |
| 31 | Association of Mongolia Geohydrology | Ulaanbaatar | Ground water resources study | 91995545 bachka_8@yahoo.com | D.Batjargal |
| 32 | Arvain Khelkhee | Ulaanbaatar | Water and environment conservation, research and training | 99880456 arvaikh@yahoo.com | B.Bat |
| 33 | Social study quality centre | Ulaanbaatar | Social health study | 88866349 naraaj@yahoo.com | J.Naranchimeg |
| 34 | Mongolia hydrologist's Association | Ulaanbaatar | Surface water resources | 91033993 temuke@yahoo.com | S.Baasansuren |
| 35 | Association Environment protection communities | Ulaanbaatar | Protection of environment and three planting | 88241425 tsengelsaikhan@yahoo.com | Tsengelsaikhan |
| 36 | Association of Lawyers for environment | Ulaanbaatar | Environmental defence | 91913460 sain_bna@yahoo.com | Ts.Tuyatsetseg |
| 37 | Woman's green area | Ulaanbaatar | Improvement of Urban greening and gardens | 91910052 deegii0052@yahoo.com | U.Delgermaa |

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|-------------|
| 38 | Mongolia Environmental | Ulaanbaatar | Support NGOs that work on environment conservation | 99992097 erdene_bz@yahoo.com | B.Erdene |
| 39 | Rivers without boundary | Ulaanbaatar | International river network | 99185828 dsukhgerel@gmail.com | D.Sykhgerel |
| 40 | Movement of Khuvsgul lake owners | Ulaanbaatar | Promote community participation in protection of the Khuvsgul lake | 88101699 khuvsguldalainezed@yahoo.com | B.Bayarmaa |
| 41 | Ariun suvruga | Ulaanbaatar | Environment protection and legislation knowledge | 99199710 ariunsuvraga@mail.mn | Chagnaadorj |
| 42 | Society of spring protection | Ulaanbaatar | Environment protection, rebalilitation of springs | 99712601 | B.Gund |

Concept on NGO Networking within Friends of Baikal Basin

Ulaanbaatar-2014



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Funded and supported by:
UNDP-GEF project on "Integrated Natural Resource Management in
the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem"

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1. Background

Lake Baikal and its transboundary basin including Lake Khovsgol represent an unparalleled global benefit in terms of international waters and biodiversity values. While past and current efforts to protect and sustainably utilize the environment and its natural resources are impressive, they are insufficient to the task of addressing the threats to the health of the Baikal Basin's interconnected aquatic ecosystems. These threats include: climate change, pollution and sedimentation, nutrient loading, and habitat destruction. To address these threats successfully conservation work must move beyond the protected area limits and into the 87% of the Basin that is not protected where natural resource exploitation continues without regard to ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation objectives. Significant barriers hamper both countries' ability to move ahead both within their national jurisdictions and jointly on a robust transboundary level.

The Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem UNOPS/UNDP builds upon a solid, decades-old baseline of bilateral cooperation between Russia and Mongolia on the transboundary waters of the Selenge River and by extension the Baikal Basin itself. To date, NGO support for environmental conservation and management in the Khuvsgul-Baikal Lake Basin has not been transboundary in orientation; single/separate involvement of NGOs of the two countries in limited activities to manage sustainably the globally significant environmental benefits represented by the Khuvsgul lake and Lake Baikal and its transboundary Basin.

Currently, there are exist several environmental NGOs within the Mongolian part of the Baikal Lake Basin with main purpose of protecting environmental resources. However, does not yet exist NGO network to coordinate their efforts and resources. Therefore, Mongolia Water Forum NGO is aiming to develop such network in the Mongolian part of the Baikal Lake Basin with support from the UNDP-GEF project on "Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Baikal Basin Transboundary Ecosystem". Once developed such network of NGOs, it will be connected also with the similar NGO network in Russian part of the basin.

2. Brief introduction on the general concept of NGO networks

Today, networks are a firmly entrenched facet of almost every aspect of society and exist just about everywhere in the world. While many networks exist, there does not seem to be

a formula of how and why they develop. Networks are created for a variety of reasons and they embody a variety of structures. They can be both formal and informal associations and they can be created at different levels ranging from local, provincial; national; regional and international.

Networking is currently recommended as particularly suitable for NGOs to improve performance and enhance impact. Since many NGOs are small and dispersed, networking is commonly seen as a cost-effective means to share information and spread knowledge about grassroots' needs, solutions and best practices. Also, networking is believed to strengthen NGO's ability to speak with one voice and to significantly increase their impact as policy negotiators and advocating agencies.

However, while NGO-networking definitely has a potential to improve the undertakings of NGOs and grassroots' organizations in many developing countries, much of this potential is not realized. NGOs have been found not to share information voluntarily as they are often fierce competitors for funds, market-shares and clients and – particularly – for the right to represent other, smaller NGOs. The so called 'NGO-community' is heterogeneous and there is reason to doubt that it should have only one voice. Too much networking is done to boost the dominance of a few large and well connected NGOs while too little networking is devoted to practical and grassroots-relevant efforts on the ground.

1. The nongovernmental world's diversity is both its greatest strength and its greatest weakness. The diversity of course extends to the networking organizations that nongovernmental organizations create and in which they participate. Just as NGOs exist, even thrive, at every level of society, so do their networks. Almost every country has many NGOs and consequently constellations of NGO networks.
2. All these illustrations demonstrate the diversity of the NGO world and its networks, even as they bring to the forefront the question of what constitutes a network. Essentially we are dealing with organizations that are networks of organizations. And since nongovernmental organizations deal with the entire spectrum of human values, human aspirations, human needs and human antagonisms, it is natural that NGO networks similarly reflect the human condition through their complexities.
3. Size is an element that conditions a network's outreach, effectiveness, professionalism and image. Although it is far from a determining factor, networks that directly or indirectly serve and represent hundreds or thousands of members have the capacity to invest in good management, thorough research, professionally-produced publications and comprehensive representation.

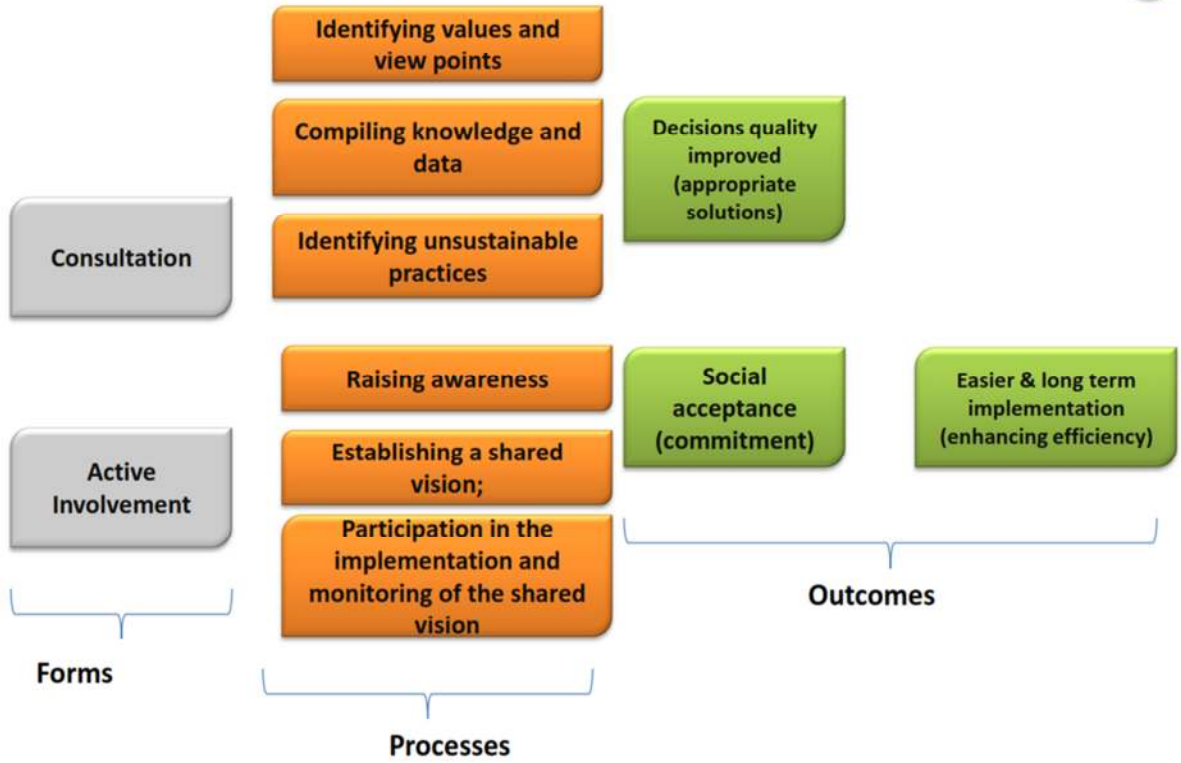
4. The precariousness of NGO networks resides in the general reluctance or inability of nongovernmental organizations to invest much in coordination. This causes many networks to live a hand-to-mouth existence unless they are authorized to seek external funding. Even then, many members of NGO networks fear that the fund-raising efforts of the network may conflict with those of the NGO. Such issues have occasionally become acute when there has been inadequate openness and transparency on the part of the network management. Where authorized by their members, NGO networks may seek external funds not only for their management costs – which should principally be the responsibility of members – but for events and programmes that it is particularly appropriate for a network to undertake. These could include conferences and seminars; training courses; publications for information and advocacy; evaluation, research and other activities that serve the interest of network members and that benefit from the mix of expertise or cost-effectiveness brought about through the existence of the network.

3. Concept of developing NGO network

Public participation is a sometimes neglected, yet vital, component, of this "new" approach to water resources management. Experience shows that the involvement of civil society in planning and decision-making enhances the overall chance of success, but that it takes a long time. Particularly NGOs within the wider civil society sector play an important role in promoting sustainable water resources management. This includes their active participation at local, national and transboundary level in all phases of watershed management planning and implementation i.e designing, implementation in the field, operationalization, monitoring and evaluation.

Therefore, in order to make this NGO network workable, public participation, including provision of information, capacity-building, engagement of stakeholders, and involvement in decision making for a and in monitoring and control of implementation, needs to be encouraged as soon as possible.

The development of the concept of the NGO network based on the general concept of public participation involvement (Thomais Vlachogianni, 2005) which presented in bellow scheme.



Forms, processes and outcomes of NGO network

3.1. Main purpose of developing NGO network

The propose of the Friends of Baikal Basin’s NGO network is to ensure a good state of conservation of ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes of the transboundary basins of the Baikal lake basin.

Main purposes are the following:

- Strengthen NGO capacities to raise environment related issues with the local and central government and contribute to environmental friendly decision making and sustainable development.
- Improve cooperation among small environmental NGOs and movements within Mongolian part of the basin and also in the entire basin by cooperating with the Russian NGO network.
- Promote sustainable development by ensuring environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

3.2. Main activities for developing NGO network

The Mongolia Water Forum Uskhelts NGO will focus on the following activities to develop environmental NGO network in Mongolian part of the basin:

- Development and implementation of NGO involvement plan
- Information dissemination and
- Visibility related activities.
- Organization of networking meetings back-to-back with the national/regional consultations and Core Group meetings
- Enhance the ability and capacity of its member in order to act in an effective and constructive way
- Efforts to link NGOs with the Lake Khuvsgul lake and the Baikal Basin programmes, projects and activities.
- Contribute in establishing a common understanding and shared vision via the coordinated involvement of NGOs, in the Lake Khuvsgul lake and the Baikal Basin Dialogue
- Joint fund raising efforts for implementing a project in support of the shared vision;
- Engagement efforts to foster commitment and solidarity among environmental NGOs of the region to protect the Khuvsgul and Baikal lake through the development of tangible/concrete outputs

3.3. Expected results

The following main results are expected with the establishment of NGO network in the Khuvsgul- Baikal Lake Basin:

- Improved coordination of the small NGO activities to influence to the environmental friendly decision making processes.
- Improved transparency of information and its exchanges
- Collaboration and exchange of experiences among NGOs at national and sub-regional level can help to effectively replicate successful approaches

3.4. Main challenges and obstacles

There are still will be quite a challenges and obstacles for effective NGO networking in the region. These may

- Lack of recognition of legitimacy of the role of NGOs;
- Constraints on the capacities and culture of local/national and regional administration bodies to properly organise and implement participatory processes;
- Lack of capacity and expertise of NGOs at local/national and regional level and lack of human resources;
- Lack of funds and/or knowledge on how to access funds;
- Lack of donors;
- Lack of, or weak coordination/collaboration between national/local and regional NGOs;
- No access to information or limited access to unreliable data regarding environmental and water management issues;
- Lack of continuation/sustainability of activities that have been initiated within the framework of a project

3.5. Potential benefits

Potential benefits of Ngo networking are

- Increasing public awareness of transboundary environmental and water issues;
- Making use of knowledge, experience, initiatives of different stakeholders and thus, improving the quality of plans, measures, policies, etc.;
- Public acceptance, commitment and support /consensus building;

- More transparent and creative decision-making;
- Less misunderstandings, litigation, delays, and more effective implementation and in the long term, safeguarding and reinforcing of democracy.

Some photos of the meetings

