



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MONGOLIA

ECONOMIC GROWTH

DAURIAN STEPPE SCAPES PROJECT



Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*) migrate across the grasslands of the Daurian Steppe in winter. Photo: K.Olson/WCS

PROJECT LOCATION:

Daurian Steppe including Mongolia’s Eastern Steppe (Dornod, Sukhbaatar and southern Khentii aimags) and borders with Russia and China.

PROJECT GOAL:

The Daurian Steppe is one of the last intact temperate grassland ecosystems in the world and stretches across Russia, Mongolia, and China. It contains over 2,000 km of international borders, numerous protected areas and multiple wildlife migration routes, including three major migratory bird flyways. The jewel of this grassland is Mongolia’s Eastern Steppe, which is home to over a million Mongolian gazelle – the last large population of migrating ungulates in Asia, and the reason for the Daurian Steppe’s designation as an IUCN-WCPA Critical Global Region and a WWF Global 200 Ecoregion. The Eastern Steppe provides essential resources for livestock herders whose livelihoods depend directly on the grassland and its wildlife. The contiguous regions of the Daurian Steppe in Russia and China are critical for the social, political and ecological connectivity of the steppe ecosystem. The goal of this project is to promote a holistic, transboundary approach to conservation across the Daurian Steppe.

FUNDING PERIOD:

October 2009 – September 2014

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

This project will contribute to the USAID SCAPES program goals of conserving biodiversity and securing the livelihoods of the rural poor by:

- 1) building a transboundary political constituency for collaborative conservation across the Daurian Steppe; and
- 2) scaling up an effective community-based model for wildlife and rangeland management.

In five years we expect the SCAPES-supported activities to lead to greater harmonization of policies and initiatives across the Daurian Steppe, active implementation of transboundary agreements related to conservation and management of the region, and broad adoption of the community-based model for sustainable management of rangelands and wildlife.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Obtained pledges of support from key Mongolian political leaders and directors of the Eastern Mongolian Protected Area Administration (EMPAA) and the Environmental Protection and Tourism Agency (EPTA) to work in partnership with the Daurian Steppe SCAPES project;
- Joined a working group of the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism (MNET) facilitated by The Nature Conservancy which will assess development plans for the Eastern Steppe and identify approaches to avoid, mitigate and offset the impact of development on important steppe biodiversity;
- Partnered with the Rare Eastern Steppe Pride Campaign which uses social marketing techniques to promote local pride in the grassland steppe;
- Participated in meetings held by MNET to gather experience and information necessary to review and potentially revise national legislation on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Mongolia.

FUNDED BY:

USAID “SCAPES-Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems” program

Wildlife Conservation Society

CONTACT ADDRESS:

Wildlife Conservation Society
PO Box 485, Post Office 38
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Phone: +976-11-323719
E-mail: afine@wcs.org

