

# INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR BETTER FUTURES IN MONGOLIA

Mongolia has about 10.8 million hectares of forests, which are vital for lowering carbon dioxide levels, maintaining soil stability and providing habitats for a variety of endemic species.

Despite this, Mongolia is losing its forest cover at a rate of 60,000 hectares per year.

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, funded by the Government of Japan through the Asian Development Bank, has allocated a grant fund to the Sustainable Forest Management to Improve the Livelihood of Local Communities Project (TA 8874 MON) to help address this problem.



Through continued work with more than 1,180 previously established Forest User Groups (FUGs) in the region, with more than 26,000 members in total, this project works towards achieving improvements of local communities' livelihoods through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). At the same time, the project works to increase the resilience of the forest ecosystems in accordance with SDG targets 15.1 and 15.2.

To achieve its goals, the project has focused on the continuous engagement and training of stakeholders, especially the FUGs and governmental forest management units, and on improving cooperation between these key actors. The cooperation focuses on the development of a model participatory forest management plan and operational plans for FUGs, which will enable the local stakeholders to become active managers of their forest resources through joint planning and sustainable management practices.

This has multiple advantages, including reduced hazards to forests through increased monitoring; reduced management costs for the state; management by forest users/dependents, which typically leads to more sustainable decision-making; higher efficiency and enhanced local livelihoods, thus supporting the progress towards SDG targets 15.5, 15.6, and 15.9.

## The project has achieved the following outputs:

- Improved the capacity of forest management line agencies to enable sustainable forest management
- Improved forest product value chains and user group capacity.
- Demonstrated technology for wood processing systems.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM OF MONGOLIA



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# Project Focus Areas

## Wood Harvesting and Processing Technologies

Value chain analyses indicate potential export markets in Europe, especially for larch outdoor products.

There are high-quality niche markets in Europe for products such as window frames and shingles made of larch, as well as burlled and spalted birch wood.

A private public partnership proposal, including two European wood companies and Mongolian companies in the wood sector, has been created to develop these products.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



15 LIFE ON LAND



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



## Timber and Biomass Energy

The project has tested FUGs' deadwood harvesting systems, logging processes and split log production capacity to investigate the possibility of wood biomass as an energy source.

The analysis shows that it's feasible to replace coal with wood biomass in areas where coal prices are high and the supply area is near the heating plant.

Waste products from wood processing and deadwood can be a short-term solution, but long-term biomass supply needs to be based on the sustainable harvesting of live trees.



## NTFP Value Chains and Livelihood Opportunities

The FUGs, FUs and forest enterprises are now better equipped to analyze and exploit the business potential of various Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

These include better production technology; legal guidance around the collection and use of NTFPs; education around the characteristics, harvesting and maturing of NTFPs (such as berries), NTFP harvest mapping and harvest planning.

1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Enhanced Livelihood Impacts and Employment

FUGs and forest enterprises now have access to education in basic business management skills that are essential for a forestry organisation, cooperative or forestry enterprise.

Participants representing seven FUGs have completed the following five business training program modules: Cooperative Management/Organizational Development, Team Management/Management Skills Development, Business Plan Development, Marketing and Cooperative Accounting.