

**Management Response to
Evaluation Recommendation for 00058065, "Sustainable Land Management for Combating Desertification" Project**

MIA – Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
MEGD – Ministry of Environment and Green Development
GoM – Government of Mongolia
NCCD – National Committee for Combating Desertification

Recommendation 1: the MIA and the MEGD convene a workshop between relevant ministries, government agencies, universities, donor organizations and other key stakeholders from aimags and soums, to discuss ministry/agency follow-up, and next steps. Workshop findings and recommendations should be presented to the GoM and the NCCD to inform them of the direction that should be pursued in addressing land degradation and combating desertification and where government support for SLM policy and "on the ground" action is best targeted.

Management Response 1:	Key actions	Responsible	Due Date	Status	Comment (if any)
- MEGD has reflected in their Workplan of 2013 to take certain steps to organize a workshops and seminars between relevant organizations and the latest workshop will be held soon. - MoIA considers the issues on pastureland and water management improvement, which is main causes of desertification.	"Yellow dust storm in Eastern Asia" International workshop in coordination with UNESCO, Forest department of Korea - Training on pastureland management officers. 21 officers from all aimags will participate in the training and gain knowledge on the following subjects: Pastureland use Water resource Improvement in localities Watering and irrigation	MEGD	In September, 2013	Planned	MEGD should consider to involve relevant projects, universities and organizations in the workshop.
Recommendation 2: A public event be developed through an annual "Combating Desertification Forum" to help highlight this issue to bring in and make available the most up to date information. Because of its importance, the NCCD should be responsible for organizing this type of event and drawing on all its members to do so. To make it as effective as possible a forum could be held in coordination with World Day on Combating Desertification and Drought, to highlight the issue among the general public and include		MoIA All aimag governors' offices	In June, 2013	Done	

wide news media coverage and documentaries on combating desertification and mitigation activities.

Management Response 2:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
To organize World Day on Combating Desertification and Drought	• Press Conference on desertification in Mongolia and policy actions • 5th Photo Contest among amateur photographers on the topic of desertification • Media coverage on desertification (TV, daily newspapers, national radio, video announcements)	NCCD	10-17 June, 2013	Organized	
Recommendation 3: "Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach to Maintaining Water Security in Critical Water Catchments in Mongolia" project can take advantage synergies between the two projects; to see what can be gained and expanded upon to formulate new possibilities in sustainable land and water catchment management on at a local and regional scale.					
Management Response 3:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
In WorkPlan 2014, EBA project plans to reflect organizing experience-sharing meetings in target soums of SLM project	To organize experience sharing meeting in target soums of SLM project (Uulbayan, Tuvshinshiree, Bayandelger of Sukhbaatar aimag) among eastern target soums of EBA project Participants: Representatives of Soum authorities, HGs, and EBA groups, Visiting sites: • Spring protection • Rehabilitated hand	EBA project Local administration and HG groups in relevant soums	2014	planned	EBA project employed one of the officers (who charges of pilot activities in target soums for 5 years) from the SLM project, which enables to implement the new project with skilled human resource.

	wells • Organic agriculture sites • Fruit trees and small scale nursery places for native plants				
Recommendation 4: Publishing and distributing a booklet or pamphlet compiling and listing sources of funding for local communities for combating soil degradation, desertification and environmental protection activities and how to organize, lobby and monitor local government for funding purposes.					
Management Response 4:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
Under the project implementation, series of handbooks, booklets articles on newspapers and professional journals in SLM and desertification control were published and distributed in target and non target soums.	According to project exist strategy, the sources and original copies of the handbooks and booklets are being handed over to relevant soum officers and local communities. Lists are below: • Handbooks on 9 types of trees; • DVD and guidebook on applying pasture rotation and resting • Handbook on pasture rotation and resting • Handbook on preventing broom-grass pasture	SLM project Local administration	within May, 2013	Done	
Recommendation 5: Baruunbayan Ulaan soum school has a very active eco-school program. In order to maintain this, the school could use a green house similar to those provided to herder groups. This would help their program to further enhance their activities with environmental education and the use of plants and bushes for conservation, water and soil protection and berry bushes for income generation. If this was tied into a lake monitoring system a greenhouse supported by the project could be used for starting plants and bushes needed to prevent sand movement around the lake and undertaken as part of their eco-school program.					
Management Response 5:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
	A small greenhouse was			Completed	

Project supported the Recommendation 5 and provided a green house to the school.	distributed in February, 2013 in BBU soum school. Now the school will install the green house near the school area in participation with their students. They will plant seeds of berry bushes and vegetables in May.	BBU soum school	Duration of planting seeds are in May-June, 2013	
Recommendation 6: Fit all UNDP vehicles used for countryside travel with an internal engine heater of a Wabasto type. Without an internal engine heater in remote locations when the temperatures fall below -30, it is very difficult to start the car without resorting to unusual field tactics to warm the engines(to set a fire under vehicles to warm their engines). This could leave UNDP personnel in an extremely vulnerable position, should one become ill or injured and need transportation to an aimag center or the capital city. An internal engine heater is just a push of a button and within 20-30 minutes the vehicle can be started safely in severe cold temperatures.				
Management Response 6: The recommendation will be discussed at the SMT for further measure. If qualified, the safety measure will be updated in the UN Standard Operating Procedures.	Key actions The recommendation will be raised at the SMT	Responsible ARR (O)	DueDate Dec 31, 2013	Status plan
Recommendation 7: Local soum governments should use new increased budget allocations for 2013 to create a "resource user group coordinator" position within the soum administration and make use of project field coordinators and their accumulated knowledge and experience.				
Management Response 7: In Project Exist Strategy, the project highlighted all available prepared and skilled resource persons in SLM that soum administration could use these resources.	Key actions <i>The issue is discussed at the several workshops (including the project closure and experience sharing meetings) and the exit strategy is shared with the implementing partner and the relevant agencies (soum, aimag</i>	Responsible Local authorities	DueDate Jan.2013	Status Completed (it refers to the exit strategy and SLM recommendation process to the soum administration)
				Comment Local administrations in project 13 target soums have proper opportunities to use these skilled resource persons. Not only the

	<i>governor office,)</i> These skilled persons are: • Local Project Coordinators, • Land officers, • Environmental inspectors, • Agricultural officers • Local trainers (prepared in dairy and wool processing products, pasture management, planting trees) • Bagh governor • Pasture specialist				mentioned persons, the members of HGs and FUGs are fully skilled to implement pilot activities in combating desertification, improving pastureland, and establishing sylvopastoralism.
Recommendation 8: Soum governments in all 13 target areas should consider substantially increasing the size and numbers of local protected areas, how they can form links or corridors between them and developing co-management plans to help govern them.					
Management Response 8:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
Project organized some experience sharing meetings and trainings in protected area management, simple environmental impact assessment, Natural resource management on LPA among representatives of soum administration, officers, community rangers, HGs and communities of target and non target areas.	• Local administrations can use skilled Community Rangers , who are provided supports by the project. • Local administrations are possible to develop the plans on protecting and extending their LPA in coordination with HGs and communities established by project support, who are working regularly in their area. • As representatives	Local administrations	Aug and Sep, 2012	completed	Local administrations can organize trainings, experience sharing meetings on LPA management in coordination with project HGs and communities among communities of non project areas. These HGs and communities are provided trainings, necessary equipment and tangible supports

	of local administrations in project target soums had involved in trainings on LPA management, these skilled resource have possibilities to extend their LPA area intervention with local communities.				by the project to implement the LPA in their localities.
Recommendation 9: Lake monitoring program for the newly refreshed taatsiin tsagaan nuur (lake) to monitor for returning species of plants and animals. The monitoring program can be built into the current school environmental program and curriculum and linked to the local environmental officer and possibly with the CDS or an Ulaanbaatar based university. This would be an excellent opportunity for local school students to see and monitor any changes in the lake and the progress of environmental processes right on their doorstep. Not only would they see life returning to the once dry lake bed, but learn how the process happens and become lifelong advocates of environmental protection, combating desertification and soil loss.					
Management Response 9:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
Project accepted the Recommendation 9 and reflected it in WP 2013.	In coordination with MNET, Asian Fund professional and "Amgalan complex" eco school, training on monitoring for returning species of plants and animals in Tsagaan nuur in BBU will be organized in UB among 2 professional teachers and 3 eco club students. Project provided support in eco school of BBU soum doing lake monitoring and evaluation in coordination with soum governor and environmental officer.	SLM project MNET "Amgalan complex" Eco school	09-11, May, 2013	Completed	Small scale equipments to monitor lake evaluation will be provided on the training for the school.
Recommendation 10: Larger fenced areas around rehabilitated springs are needed to give these sites more of a protected area to draw from. A number of the springs visited on the field trip really did not protect enough of an area around the water source especially uphill and above springs in the surrounding water catchment areas. Fencing off larger areas around springs would prevent livestock trampling and allow more plant cover, bushes or trees to grow which will enhance water saturation of the soil feeding the springs as well as increase wildlife use of the area, giving them larger and safer places to access water.					

Management Response 10:	Key actions	Responsible	DueDate	Status	Comment
The project piloted several approaches in protecting natural springs in target soums. As a result of these experiences, protecting spring with larger areas are Efficient and successful. Therefore, the SLM project agreed with the recommendation 10 and started to protect enough of areas around water sources in 4 newly selected soums (Munkhaan, Bayan, Bayangol, Huvsgul).	In participation with local communities and administration, the following 7 springs in 4 selected soums protected covering a total of 16 ha areas: • 2 springs fenced protecting a total of 3 ha areas in Munkhuun soum, Sukhbaatar aimag. • 1 spring with a total of 4 ha areas will be protected in Bayan soum, Tuv aimag. • 2 springs with a total of 4 ha areas protected in Huvsgul soum, Dornogobi aimag. • 2 springs with a total of 5 ha areas protected in Bayangol soum, Uvurkhangai aimag.	SLM project Local administration Local communities	7-22, May, 2013	Completed	The pilot activity of protecting springs in 4 selected soums will be organized as demonstration trainings in every soums.

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