

Proceedings of the Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop: Assessing the Conservation Status of Mongolian Mammals and Fishes: I - Results and Outputs of the Workshop

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Abstract

The Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop was held at the National University of Mongolia and Hustai National Park from 31st October to 4th November, 2005. Participants assessed the conservation status of all Mongolian mammals and fishes using the IUCN Categories and Criteria, and also met the other main objectives of the workshop, including: creating a Biodiversity Databank, revising species lists and maps for Mongolian mammals and fishes, and developing Summary Conservation Action Plans for a number of threatened or commercially important species. This article includes information about the IUCN Categories and Criteria used to assess Mongolian mammals and fish and these outputs. The Biodiversity Databank holds baseline data on the ecology, distribution, threats, conservation measures, and conservation status for all Mongolian mammals and fishes. Revised species lists have been agreed upon for the Biodiversity Databank project including 128 native species of mammals and 64 native species of fish. Digital maps have been produced for all mammals and fish, where data exists. Results of the workshop should provide baseline information for conservation of Mongolian biodiversity and provide resources for researchers.

Keywords: *biodiversity, databank, extinction risk, fish, mammal, Mongolia, threat*

Introduction

Mongolia's economy and landscape have undergone rapid changes since the early 1990s, but the impact of these changes on the conservation status of Mongolian wildlife has been poorly documented. From October 31st to November 4th 2005, over 70 of the world's leading Mongolian biodiversity specialists participated in the first Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop to identify the conservation status of Mongolian species, and thus form a baseline from which future trends can be measured. Included in the Workshop was a small expert working group focussing on Mongolian fishes. The main objectives of the meeting were to develop an agreed species list for Mongolian mammals and fishes, populate the Mongolian Biodiversity Databank, develop detailed distribution maps for all Mongolian mammals and fish, assess the conservation status of Mongolian mammals and fishes and identify measures necessary to conserve species of concern. This paper highlights the main findings of the workshop, with more detailed discussion of the status of and threats to Mongolian mammals and

fish presented in further papers.

The project was funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) (regionally represented by the Steppe Forward Programme) and the National University of Mongolia, in collaboration with the Mongolian Academy of Science, the Ministry for Nature and the Environment, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as well as many other regional and international organisations.

Extensive research and data collection before and during the workshop, and an ongoing review process following the workshop has resulted in five main products. These are:

1. A species list of Mongolian mammals and fishes, in line with current nomenclature. Historically, there has been poor communication between Russian, Chinese, Mongolian and Western scientists, resulting in little agreement over accepted Mongolian species lists for most taxonomic groups. The workshop was an ideal forum to