

Conferences and Events

Announcement of 2007 as the Year for Conservation of Unique Biological Species of Mongolia by the Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition

The Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) has decided to announce the 2007 as the Year for Conservation of Unique Biological Species of Mongolia. This initiative was supported by the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia (MNE).

The Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition has been running continuously for over 35 years and is dedicated its activities to the study of biological diversity, ecological characteristics and the conservation of natural resources of Mongolia.

Within the framework of these activities, the joint expedition is planning to implement a special research program, "Estimation of the Current Situation of Threatened and Declining Vertebrate Animals and Vascular Plant Species in Mongolia".

The main aim of this program is to conduct the study for assessing the current status of the populations of rare, endemic and relict species of Mongolian fauna and flora, which are under threat and formulating the strategy for conservation of those species and natural heritages of the country.

In the preparation of this research program, the following principles are considered:

- formulating the specific individual programs for the investigation of the populations of rare animal and plant species and ecosystems;
- defining the groups of organisms that require the detailed investigation;
- formulating the comprehensive approaches in accordance with the anthropogenic influence on given natural subjects;
- using the combination of various methods in the studies and estimations of the current status of wildlife and their habitats;
- unifying the results of field observations in the main distribution ranges of selected groups of animals and plants with that of the data gained in the model sites;
- cooperating with the governmental, nongovernmental and international organizations, activities of which are concerned with the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources;

- providing the possibility for participation of the specialists from Russia, Mongolia and other countries who are specialized and experienced in these areas of research.

For the successful implementation of this program, coordinators will be encouraged to cooperate closely with scientists from the RAS, MAS, MNE, Ministry of Science, Education and Culture of Mongolia and universities in Mongolia, as well as international organizations such as IUCN, UNESCO etc. In addition, the coordinators encourage the specialists from the above-mentioned organizations to be involved in research groups of the field expeditions.

The following objectives are considered for the implementation of this program:

1. investigation of endangered, endemic or relict species of animals that are included in the Red Data Book of Mongolia such as the Asiatic wild ass (*Equus hemionus hemionus*), goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) and assessment of the current status of their populations to develop conservation measures;
2. assessment of the current status of game species, the populations of which are declining, such as the Siberian marmot (*Marmota sibirica*) and Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*);
3. assessment of the current situation of the rare and endangered species of fishes, such as the Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*), taimen (*Hucho taimen*), lenok (*Brachymystax lenok*) etc;
4. assessment of the current status of the rare and endangered species of birds, such as the Altai snow-cock (*Tetraogallus altaicus*), Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and some species of birds of prey;
5. assessment of the current status of the vascular plants and formulation of conservation measures of endangered, endemic and relict species included in the Red Data Book of Mongolia;
6. elucidation and investigation of unique ecosystems in Mongolia, estimation of their current status and biodiversity, inventory of the rare ecosystems and formulation of conservation action plans of ecosystem diversity;
7. publication of scientific articles in periodical journals and other scientific publications and

organization of the regional session or round-table discussion on the problems of conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems of Mongolia.

For more information about this program, please contact the coordinators: Prof. Peter D. Gunin, A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky pr. 33, Moscow, 119071, Russia, e-mail: pgunin@online.ru, http://www.sevin.ru/menues1/index_rus.html or Prof. Ch. Dugarjav, Institute of Botany, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulaanbaatar 210351, Mongolia, e-mail: ibot@mongol.net.

24 June to 29 September 2007. 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus. The Linnean Society of London is planning a number of meetings, events and celebrations in London, UK to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of C. Linnaeus. For information see <http://www.linnean.org/> and contact: Jennifer Edmonds, e-mail: J.M.Edmonds@leeds.ac.uk or Adrian Thomas e-mail: adrian@linnean.org.

July 1-5 2007. 21st Annual conference of the Society for Conservation Biology. The annual conference will be held at Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, South Africa. More information is available at <http://www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/>.

4-6 September 2007. International conference on Mathematical Biology. The conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Malaysia organized by University Putra Malaysia and the Malaysian Mathematical Science Society. More information is available from: Dr. Zulkifly Abbas, e-mail: icmb07@inform.upm.edu.my.

19-23 September 2007. Eighth International conference "Natural conditions, history and culture of Western Mongolia". The conference will be held at the State University of Gorny Altai Republic, Russia. More detailed information is available from: Prof. Kh. Tsedev, e-mail: tsedevh@yahoo.com or sci@gasu.ru.

23-27 September 2007. Fifteenth International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species. The conference will be held in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. For more information, please contact: e-mail: elizabeth@theprofessionaledge.com, http://www.icaais.org/html/info_intro.html.

12-13 October 2007. International conference "Actual problems of ecology and utilization of natural resources in Kazakhstan and adjacent regions". The conference will be held at the Pavlodar State University, Kazakhstan. For more detailed information, please contact: Prof. Nurlan T. Erzhanov, e-mail: erzhanov@psu.kz or nir@psu.kz.

19-30 May 2008. Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The conference will be held in Bonn, Germany. For more information, please contact: CBD Secretariat, e-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org, <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>.

6-12 July 2008. XXIII International Congress of Entomology. The congress will be held at the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa. Further information is available: <http://www.ice2008.org.za/default.asp>, e-mail: info@ice2008.org.za.