

## Fact Sheet

# Cooperation between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and Mongolia

**The activities of the International Takhi Group ITG are good examples of the cooperation arranged by ITG between Switzerland's SDC and the Mongolian government.**

The International Takhi Group (ITG) aims at a strict protection of the habitat in Mongolia's Great Gobi B. As part of the program, by focusing on conserving the natural habitat - preserving Mongolia's national parks ("strictly protected areas") -, the program ensures that development in Mongolia is also made sustainable. The central government has to provide financial assistance and counseling for the local population to develop their capacity. This is not enough. The program's objective of conservation and sustainable development can only succeed if it has the support of the local people and the cooperation of the authorities of the aimags (regions or "cantons"), the sums (districts), and the baghs (municipalities). People and officials at the local levels have to take responsibility of re-introducing the Takhi in their locales. It is imperative that they aid the management of the national parks in their conservation initiatives and also contribute with their own ideas and input. Emphasis has to be put not only on law enforcement, but also on imparting education on the environment; the populace in and around the national parks must be encouraged to base their income on local products and ecotourism.

### Natural Resource Management

Cooperation was arranged, first, around the National Park. The SDC has funded following activities: Livestock Project Mongolia, Pasture Ecosystem Management Project, and Coping with Desertification. All of them have a direct impact on the grazing areas of the Takhi.

### Governance – Democracy for Nature Protection

Cooperation was arranged, second, a "Governance and Decentralization Project" between Switzerland and Mongolia. The SDC entered into an agreement with the President's Office of Mongolia, the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance. The background was a visit by the President of Mongolia and his officials to the Swiss Canton of Aargau, to the Center for Democracy in Aarau (ZDA), and to the Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Democracy can support nature protection. The management of the National Park is an example to illustrate the possibilities of democracy and decentralization. In 2011 ITG, The Park Administration and SDC organized a joint conference in the Gobi B Camp for the authorities and the population (herders and the villages) to explain the Management Plan and the possibilities to influence its implementation and the natural resources. In 2012 there will be a follow up Conference to verify the state of implementation, the cooperation between the population, the authorities and the services of SDC and ITG and to learn from the experiences.



President [Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj](#) of Mongolia with Thomas Pfisterer, President of ITG in Switzerland



President [Elbegdorj](#) talking to Martin Dahinden, Director of SDC, Thomas Pfisterer, President ITG, assisting



Further information: <http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/mongolia>