

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Elaboration of a World Heritage Nomination Desert Landscapes of the Mongolian Southern Gobi



Great Gobi in Dawn

Source: Dr. Petra Kaczensky

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**Project country:** Mongolia

**Duration:** 05/2023 – 03/2025

**Beneficiaries:** Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET)

**Implementing organisations:**

Michael Succow Foundation (MSF), International Takhi Group Mongolia (ITG), Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management (INN), Mongolian Bird Conservation Center (MBCC)

**Project number:** 3723670009

**Thematic management:**

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## Background

The Mongolian Gobi Desert is outstanding at a global scale due to its combination of size, diversity and pristiness. The Great and Small Gobi protected areas are home to an extraordinary large number of rare animal and plant species, as well as an enormous range of largely untouched and intact desert landscapes and geomorphological formations. The government of Mongolia submitted the “Desert Landscapes of the Mongolian Great Gobi” to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention’s tentative list already in 2014. The Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change requested assistance for the elaboration of a sophisticated nomination dossier for UNESCO.

## Project details

The UNESCO nomination of the “Mongolian Gobi”, which is described in a total of six components, Mongolia intends to close one of the few remaining major gaps in the World Heritage Convention. The international project team compiled a corresponding dossier, which was submitted to UNESCO after the end of the project. The aim is to ensure the long-term international protection of the Gobi Desert's unique natural areas. International recognition by the World Heritage Committee is expected to improve access to international financing instruments and will hopefully remind national decision-makers of their responsibility to invest in the protection of these unique and outstanding landscapes and ecosystems. Improved management for maintaining an effective protection system can preserve the Mongolian Gobi and its species from poaching, overgrazing and illegal mining.

**Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)**  
for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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