



Association GOVIIN KHULAN

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Protecting the Mongolian Khulan and its habitat in partnership with local rangers and communities of the southeast Gobi, Mongolia:

a multidisciplinary and innovative approach for a long term success

Protecting the endangered Mongolian Khulan (*Equus hemionus hemionus*) and its habitat in partnership with local rangers and communities of the southeast Gobi, Mongolia: a multidisciplinary and innovative approach for a long term success

To reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans



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Cover photo: Group of Mongolian Khulans observed near a dry river bed in the southeast Gobi during the summer 2008 (© Anne-Camille Souris / All rights reserved).

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. Context and problems

The Mongolian Khulan (*Equus hemionus hemionus*) is one of the 5 recognized sub-species of the Asiatic Wild Ass and represents the largest population of this species in the world (with about 80% of this species global population).

Mongolia, which currently holds the largest population of the Asiatic Wild Ass in the world, is a very important place for this species conservation.

However, the population of the Mongolian Khulan is at risk and number of individuals have declined significantly from an estimated population size of about 40,000 individuals in 1997 to an estimated population size of about 18,000 individuals in 2003 (Source and references: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/7951>).

Thus, the Mongolian Khulan population has known an important by as much as 50% since the end of the 1990's!

Internationally, the Mongolian Khulan is listed in the Red List of the IUCN as “**Endangered**”, in **Appendix I** of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and in **Appendix II** of the CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals). Locally, the Mongolian Khulan is listed in the Mongolian Red Book as “very rare” and as “Endangered” in the Mongolian Red List of Mammals.



Mongolian Khulans at a small pool of water (temporary) _ Summer 2009.

. Threats affecting the Mongolian Khulan survival



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1: Carcass of a Mongolian Khulan illegally hunted.

2: Mongolian khulans moving in file to a small pool of water while domestic camels are finally leaving it.

Today, **main threats affecting the Mongolian Khulan survival** are:

- **illegal hunting** for meat and skin with illegal commercial use in some areas. It seems that lungs of the Mongolian Khulan are also used in the **traditional medicine to treat human bronchitis** (Traditional medicine: Anne-Camille Souris, result of interviews conducted in 2008 and 2009/ Other results see source* + GOVIIN KHULAN research team);
- **habitat degradation** through human settlements, resource extraction such as mining (legal and illegal mining) which is increasing in the Gobi area, possibly through grazing by increasing numbers of domestic livestock and due to an impact of global warming (source*);
- a possible **competition** with domestic livestock to access to natural resources that are limited in the Gobi, and “**conflicts**” between herders and khulans, with nomadic Mongolian herdsmen also claiming that Mongolian khulans are dangerous, damage pastures and ground and prevent livestock access to water sources and pastures (source* + GOVIIN KHULAN research team).

Off-take of khulans for the illegal meat trade is estimated at **about 3,000 individuals per year** (Zahler, 2004).

Recruitment (number of offspring) varies from 3 to 23 percent. If illegal hunting continues in Mongolia, then the potential decline of this important population will be 5 to 10 percent per year. **In 21 years or 3 generations, the Mongolian Khulan population decline will be greater than 50%** (Moehlman *et al.* 2008. *Equus hemionus*. IUCN 2011. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Version 2011.2., and source* <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/7951/0>).

In Inner Mongolia, high levels of hunting in the 1980s severely decreased the Mongolian Khulan's populations there. Xiaoming and Schaller (1996) found very few khulans further than 100 km from the Chinese/Mongolia border, suggesting that the inner Mongolian population is only a seasonal expansion of the Mongolian population.

In the 19th century the range of the Mongolian Khulan was located in the south half part of Mongolia and extended up to the Great Western Mongolian Lakes (Bannikov, 1954). There were also reports of Mongolian khulans in the steppes of Transbaikalia (Zevogmid & Dawaa 1973, cited in Stubbe *et al.* 2005). Since the 1960s the distribution range sharply declined and population number decreased because of human impacts (Bannikov 1954, 1975; Shiirevdamba 1997). Today the Mongolian Khulan is distributed in Mongolia throughout the Gobi from the west to the east: Gobi-Altay, Bayankhongor, Dundgovi, Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags/provinces (Reading *et al.* 2011). Mongolia actually represents the largest stronghold of the Asiatic Wild Ass worldwide.

As mentioned by Lhagvasuren B. (Erfosch. Biol. Ress. Mongolei, 2007), historically competitions exist between khulans with nomads and their livestock to access to pasture and water sources in the Gobi region of Mongolia. This problem became more severe after privatization of the livestock in Mongolia from the 1990's when the socialistic-centralized economy was transformed into a free market economy. Increasing livestock numbers, especially in the Gobi region, and effects of the global warming with a decrease of open water sources, desertification and degradation of pastures have modified the rangelands, and local people started to blame the khulan and other wild herbivores as grazing competitors. Last survey conducted in 2003 suggested that 18,411 (+/- 224) khulans inhabit southern Mongolia with a density of 1.4 individuals per 1000km² within the 157,525km² territory of its actual distribution. The Dornogobi province contains the higher number of Khulan with a mere 67% while 20% are found in the Ömnögobi aimag, 12% in Dzungarian Gobi and 1% in the Gobi-Altay and Bayankhongor provinces (Lhagvasuren B., 2007).

In the Gobi, 99% of the habitat is used as livestock pasture. In such habitats long-distance transhumance is a necessity for sustainable pastoralism and semi-nomadic herders need access to large tracts of land, including protected areas. Moreover, political changes in the early 1990's forced urban populations to return to nomadic land use, resulting in a sharp increase in human and livestock numbers in many rural areas (Ferdandez-Gimenez, 1999; Bedunah and Schmidt, 2004; Mearns, 2004). Water in the Gobi desert area is a critical resource for humans, livestock and wildlife, but is very rare and very scarce. The availability of water, mostly in the form of springs, lakes, pools, is highly variable and depends on local rainfall patterns. Water, for human and their livestock, is usually obtained by small and hand drawn wells. During the collective era, numerous wells were built, but most of them have fallen into disrepair since 1990. Then, herders and their livestock have been forced to use more regularly open water sources that are also used by wildlife such as khulans. In such area, access to water is also very important for the conservation of wild Equids and should be secured.

Migrations of Mongolian Khulans over large distances are well known and are explained by the availability of food resources and water in the Gobi area. The populations are affected by linear infrastructures such as fences along a railway between Ulaanbaatar and Beijing and other human activities restrict the species movements, migration, access to grazing areas and water sources (Clark *et al.*, 2006, and Barriers to migration: a case study in Mongolia. Analyzing the Effects of Infrastructure on Migratory Terrestrial Mammals in Mongolia. B.Lkhagvasuren, B.Chimeddorj and D.Sanjmyatav. WWF Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar August-October, 2011). In the south and southeast Gobi, migrations of khulans could be also limited by the new railroads and roads that will be built in the near future in the south Gobi.

. Background and history of the Mongolian Khulan conservation program

Anne-Camille Souris, ethologist, member of the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group since 2007, president and research manager of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN, has been studying the Mongolian Khulan (*Equus hemionus hemionus*) since 2004. She first conducted research on this sub-species in the southwest Gobi during the summer 2004 for another international organization. In 2007, she co-founded the **Association GOVIIN KHULAN** <http://www.goviinkhulan.com> to enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat, improve relations between Mongolian herders and khulans and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

The **Association GOVIIN KHULAN** is a French non-profit organization. Actually members are both French and Mongolian and they live in France, in Mongolia, in Australia and United Arab Emirates. Research and conservation work of the **Mongolian Khulan Conservation Program** conducted by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN started during the summer 2008 on the populations that occur in the eastern part of the Ömnögobi aimag/province and in the south of the Dornogobi aimag/province, located in the southeastern Gobi, where research have been previously conducted by other teams but where very few actions were conducted towards this endangered species protection.

The first mission conducted during the summer **2008** for 2 months in the Gobi desert was funded by 1,600 Euros donated by a French organization (la **Société des Amis du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle**) and the Anne-Camille Souris's own contribution. Three other missions were conducted during the summer 2009, during the fall 2010 and during the summer 2012. The mission conducted in **2009** was funded by a Grant from the National Geographic Society (**National Geographic Society Conservation Trust**) awarded to Anne-Camille Souris. The mission conducted in **2010** was funded by a Grant from the Chicago Zoological Society (**Chicago Zoological Society Endangered Species Trust**) awarded to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN and Anne-Camille Souris, some private donations made to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN and Anne-Camille Souris's own contribution. The mission conducted during the summer 2012 was funded by a Grant obtained by the **Prince Bernhard Nature Fund**, donations made to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN by **French business as part of the 1% for the Planet**, and private donations.

This program follows since the beginning the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group's research and conservation priorities (IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature / www.iucn.org).

. Scientific and technical partnership

Since 2008 our organization collaborates locally with:

-two Mongolian researchers of the prestigious **National University of Mongolia**,



-the **Mongolian Ornithological Society** (MOS, a Mongolian NGO dedicated to conservation of birds in Mongolia / <http://www.mos.mn>),

-**managers** of protected areas of the south Gobi and **rangers** working in these protected areas and outside of these areas: Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags/provinces,

-**governors of administrative divisions**, mainly Khatanbulag, Mandakh, Huvsgul, and Saikhandulaan sums. Collaborations will be extended to Sainshand and other administrative units/sums in 2012.

- some **schools** of the southeast Gobi,

- some **families and people** living in our study area,

- and two **Buddhist monasteries** “Ulgii Khiid” which is located in the Mandakh sum, and since 2010 with the famous Buddhist monastery “Khamariin Khiid” located at few kilometers from the town of Sainshand. Saikhandulaan,

- After three years of research and actions, our organization will explore in 2012 possibilities of collaboration with the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia.

Since the beginning we **have secured support** of the local population living in our study area which expresses since our first mission conducted in the Gobi its strong wish for being involved in the project and to work with us to protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan. Also, Anne-Camille Souris is now part of the communities of the Dornogobi aimags and is well known there.

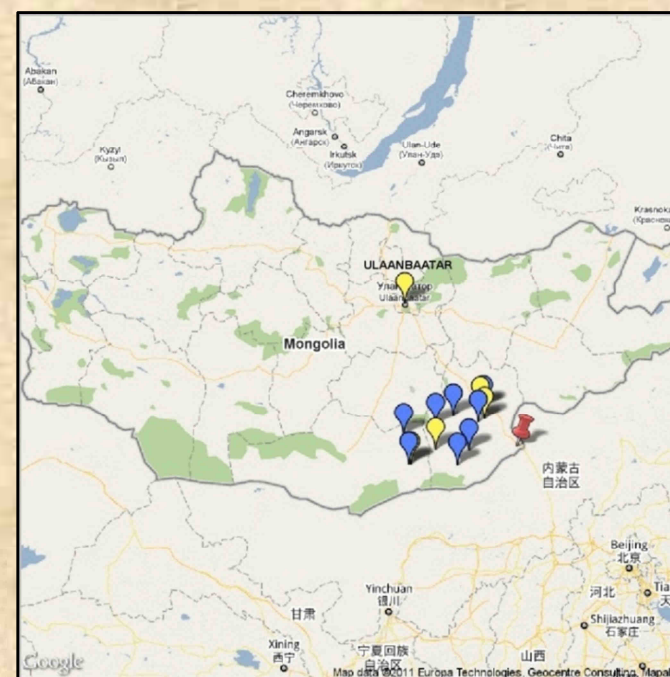
International collaborations are actually in progress. Also, further partnerships will be locally and internationally built within the following months.

. Location of the Mongolian Khulan Conservation Program conducted by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN



Landscape of the southeast Gobi, summer 2008

Since the summer 2008, the conservation program is conducted in the south of Mongolia, **in the eastern part of the Ömnögobi aimağ/province and in the south of the Dornogobi aimağ/province, located in the southeastern Gobi.** It will be maybe extended to Inner Mongolia (China) in the near future where small populations of the Mongolian Khulan are also present (but for which it is still not known if these populations are permanent or if they are the result of migrations from Mongolia).



Map: Our study area which is located in the south and southeast Gobi.

In blue: administrative subdivision centers with their schools, in yellow: Buddhist monasteries, in red: one border point at the Chinese border with local markets where surveys will be conducted. 2 other border points are also located in the south Gobi but are not mentioned in this map (we will also conduct our surveys there).

. How GOVIIN KHULAN acts to protect this species and its habitat?

In order to enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat, to improve relations between humans and khulans, and to contribute to biodiversity conservation on a long term, our team, in collaboration with our partners, have built throughout the years a **multidisciplinary and innovative approach** that takes into consideration needs, difficulties, culture and traditions of the local population, and directly involve the local population in research and activities, for a long term success.

Since the first mission conducted in 2008, we have **secured support** from the local population, rangers, manager of the Little Gobi B Protected Area, governors of administrative subdivisions of our study area, some schools, and two Buddhist monasteries.

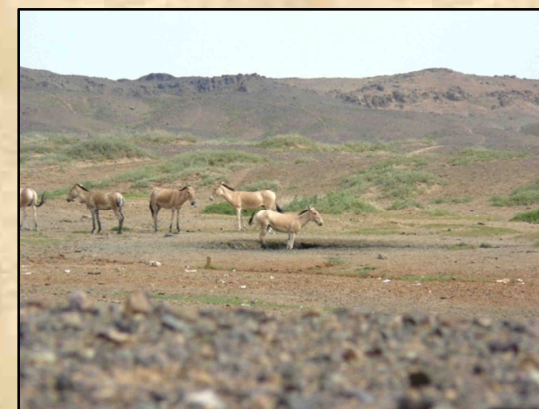
Our **multidisciplinary and innovative approach** includes:



Mongolian khulan (male) drinking at a watering hole made at a dry river bed, in the morning: 08:00 a.m. Image captured from a video obtained with a trail camera BUSHNELL. Observation by using cameras.

1) Use of **different scientific methods** pertinent to the Mongolian Khulan conservation:

- 1.1. Behavioral ecology and ethology's study with observation of the animals (direct observations and using cameras);
- 1.2. Noninvasive genetics;
- 1.3. Nature of interactions between khulans, other species (wild and domestic) and human activities, and nature of relations between humans and khulans.



Mongolian Khulans at a dry water point with watering holes. Here a stallion defending a watering hole to prevent access to other individuals. Direct observation.

1.4. Research on illegal hunting and other threats affecting this sub-species survival and their impact on the Khulan population dynamic (direct observations, by using cameras, interviews of local people, surveys ...).



Carcass of a Mongolian Khulan illegally hunted, summer 2009.



Involvement of the Director of a watermelon and vegetables growing company, located in the Tsagaantsav area, in the southeast Gobi, as Ranger volunteer of GOVIIN KHULAN. Summer 2012.



Mongolian khulans in the Tsagaantsav area. 2010.

2) Technical, training and professional support to rangers working in the study area (working inside and outside of protected areas), **employment of rangers** at full-time and at part-time all year round as part of our project, implementation of **mobile anti-poaching units** and **involvement of rangers in education and information** of the local communities about protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan, other endangered Gobi species and their habitat. Rangers actually involved in the project live and work in the following districts: Khatanbulag and Mandakh sums/districts of the Dornogobi aimag/province. We provided technical equipment (GPS, binoculars, digital camera and small technical equipment) to 3 rangers and a trail camera to rangers of the Khatanbulag sum who work in the Little Gobi B Protected Area. They also received brochures about conservation of the Mongolian Khulan and biodiversity and monitoring brochures to monitor khulans, their interactions with other species and human activities and threats affecting this species survival.

3) Involvement of local people in the project as “Citizen Conservationists” and technical, training and professional support to them.

2 families living in the southeast Gobi are actually involved in the project as “Citizen Conservationists” and support the project since 2008. One of these two families lives in a small Buddhist monastery with which the Association GOVIIN KHULAN collaborates since 2008. Families actually involved in the project live in the following districts: Khatanbulag and Mandakh sums/districts of the Dornogobi aimag/province. Both families received technical equipment (GPS, binoculars, digital camera and small equipment). They also received brochures about conservation of the Mongolian Khulan and biodiversity and monitoring brochures to monitor khulans, their interactions with other species and human activities and threats affecting this species survival



Gansukh & Otgon - Citizen Conservationists of GOVIIN KHULAN who live at the Ulgii Hiid Buddhist monastery – September 2012.



Cover of a strip cartoon created in 2009 for the local population. “Khulan my friend”. This strip-cartoon had a great success in the Gobi area.

4) Provision of conservation education to the local population in collaboration with schools, province governors, rangers and Buddhists monasteries including information on the Khulan significance for the Gobi ecosystem (ecological, economic and cultural value). Activities will be organized with local herders and people, schools and Buddhist monasteries, and educational materials and educational trunks (for our team, rangers and people involved in our project) will be created and used with local communities.



English class of Mrs Gantogs, to which we did a Powerpoint presentation of our project in 2010.

5) Reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with the Mongolian Khulan, other species and nature protection:

5.1) Reinforce links between Mongolian Buddhism with Mongolian Khulan, other species and nature protection.

In Mongolia, the majority of the population is Buddhist (Gelupga, like the Dalai Lama) and Buddhist monks play a major role in local communities. Monks partners of our organization will encourage all over the year local people to protect the Mongolian Khulan, other wild species and nature. Activities will be also organized by monks all over the year and by our team during our stay in the Gobi.

In 2010, monks of the Hamariin Hiid and Ulgii Hiid and our team have chosen September 18 to be the Khulan Day and September 10 to be the Gobi wildlife Day. Monks of the Ulgii Khiid monastery made also the Mongolian Khulan a sacred animal (photo).

Monks of Ulgii Hiid are involved a lot in the project and regularly organize some public talks to people they meet at their monastery and while travelling about Khulan, species and nature protection.

In 2012, our team donated a brochure about Mongolian Khulan and biodiversity conservation created by our organization, and some materials (books, posters...) created by 2 American organizations (The Tributary Fund and the Arc World project with which we are in touch and that also work to reinforce links between religion and biodiversity conservation).



Buddhist monks of the Ulgii Khiid monastery, the morning during which they made the Mongolian Khulan sacred following Buddhism teaching and traditions.





Artwork made by the Technology teacher of the Khatanbulag's school, Mr. Adyasuren, and donated to Anne-Camille Souris, President and research manager of GOVIIN KHULAN.

5.2) Reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with Mongolian Khulan, other species and nature protection. In September 2011, the Mongolian Art & Science Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation has been created by our organization. To date, 9 Mongolian artists, singers and musicians have joined this Alliance.

Susan Fox, an American oil painter specialized in wildlife and nature Art and who also works on an Art project in Mongolia to connect Western and Mongolian artists who are interested in wildlife and nature art: "WildArt Mongolia", recently joined our Alliance of Mongolian Art and culture and Science in support to biodiversity conservation in Mongolia, and our organization and Chairwoman will both collaborate with her for her WildArt Mongolia project



"Girl with Green horse". Artwork created beginning of 2012 by the artists ZAYA, who is member of our Alliance. Painting related to nature protection. © Zayasaikhan

About the project: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-culture-and-biodiversity-conservation/mongolian-art-science-alliance-for-conservation/>

About the Alliance: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-culture-and-biodiversity-conservation/mongolian-art-science-alliance-for-conservation/>

6) Education to environmental and animal ethics

7) Information of local and international citizen to nature and biodiversity protection thanks to various activities and events: conferences, workshops, scientific and general publications, exhibitions (photographs and Art works ...) ... These activities will be organized in Mongolia and abroad. We also wish to organize such activities and events in our study area located in the Gobi where the local population living there will be directly involved.

8) Long range goals

8.1) to implement a **community project** in our study area, with the aim to directly involve people in this project, to provide training and a commercial outlet for handmade articles, encourage and provide them with training for sustainable herding and involve them in eco-tourism we will co-organize with our local partner (MOS);

8.2) organize **wildlife watching tours** and **scientific expeditions for tourists** in our study area (tours will be managed by scientific trip leaders and won't be organized every month to don't negatively impact wildlife of our study area);

8.3) to build a **Khulan and Biodiversity Conservation Center** in Khatanbulag (Dornogobi aimag) to gather a data base where all rangers, specialists and scientists will put their data, and to regularly organize meetings, workshops, between local and international specialists and scientists with sum governors, rangers, and the local population. Exhibitions and events will be also organized in this center on the following topics: nature, biodiversity, and Gobi wildlife protection and natural resources management;

8.4) to have our office in Mongolia and locally create a Mongolian branch of our organization co-supervised by Mongolian researchers and our team with activities conducted by Mongolian people living in our study area, Mongolian students and young biologists with our assistance.

The parts 1 (for research on behavioral ecology and ethology only), 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 has been started since the summer 2008. The part 8.1 has been also started by involving in our project some families and people to observe khulans and collect information all over the year.

The project to build a Khulan and Biodiversity Conservation Center is a common initiative with Mr. Terbish Sh., chief of rangers working in the Khatanbulag sum and in the Little Gobi B protected area.

The education and training program for rangers and local people would enhance their participation in the definition and implementation of management recommendations and actions for Khulan conservation.

This program is based on collaboration and involvement of the local population and since the beginning it takes into consideration difficulties, culture and traditions of the local population. Thanks to its multidisciplinary approach this program will contribute to the protection of the Mongolian Khulan and to biodiversity conservation on a long term basis, and could be a model for other projects conducted to protect other sub-species of the Asiatic Wild Ass and other species in Mongolia and all over the world.

This conservation program will also lead to the following activities:

-Scientific publications,

-Publication of scientific reports (that will be sent to the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group, the Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, rangers, offices and managers of protected areas...) and of annual activity reports;

-Educational trunks, tools and activities: activities will be organized during our stay in the Gobi and during the year by rangers and people. Some activities will be also organized in Ulaanbaatar and in Sainshand (town located in the south Gobi). Educational trunks and tools will be also donated to rangers and people involved in the project to be used all over the year with local people and kids they will meet. Specific educational tools will be created for Buddhist monasteries partners of our organization and activities will be organized all year round with them;

-Applied tools (e.g. non-invasive DNA sampling) to help guide conservation programs and monitoring of illegal trafficking and poaching;

-International and local workshops (locally in Ulaanbaatar and in the south Gobi);

-Some documentaries will be created since this year, one with the Portuguese research team and one with a Mongolian film Director and Writer (in 2013) and will be translated into French, English and Mongolian languages (a DVD with the Mongolian version will be donated to the local population);

-International and local publications (e.g. newspaper in Mongolia and in our study area, and other journals worldwide), publication of results on the GOVIIN KHULAN's website and other websites.

Further topics of research and actions will be added within the following months, and will be mentioned in our website.



General concept for protection of the Mongolian Khulan and its habitat on a long term basis

. Functioning of our organization

All active members are actually benevolent, but we hope to have soon enough funding to employ some of them in France and in Mongolia, at part-time and at full-time, to improve our organization functioning. To have all members benevolent can limit success to easily find enough funding for our conservation program, with all activities and writing of reports and papers to consider.

Today active members of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN are:

-Miss Anne-Camille SOURIS (French) – Co-Founder, Chairwoman, member of the Board of Directors, project and research Director and manager. She is ethologist specialized on Mongolian Khulan ethology and behavioral ecology, member of the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group, expert on the Mongolian Khulan for the Large Herbivore Foundation, she has been studying Mongolian Khulan behavioral ecology and ethology in Mongolia since the summer 2004 (France and Mongolia),

-Mrs Marie-Aline PONS (French) – Co-Founder, Treasurer, and member of the Board of Directors,

-Pr. GOMBOBAATAR S. (Mongolian) - Professor at the Zoology Department, Faculty of Biology at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar, President of the Mongolian Ornithological Society and member of the GOVIIN KHULAN's Experts Committee (Mongolia),

-Dr. BATSAIKHAN N. (Mongolian) - Wildlife biologist, Faculty of Biology at the National University of Mongolia, and member of the GOVIIN KHULAN's Experts Committee (Mongolia). He previously did research on the Mongolian Khulan in the south and southeast Gobi,

-Mr. BATMUNKH D. (Mongolian) – BSc. Student in Biology at the National University of Mongolia, research and project assistant,

-Miss UNDRAKH T. (Mongolian) – assistant in design and creator of our actual Logo (Australia),

-Miss OYUMAA P. (Mongolian) - Assistant in translation and creation of educational materials for Mongolian citizens (Mongolia),

-Miss Coralie MENET (French) – assistant in international information and public awareness (United Arab Emirates).

Some local rangers and Citizen conservationists who live in the southeast Gobi are also locally involved in the project (<http://www.goviinkhulan.com/discover/about-us/rangers-citizen-conservationists/>).

New members will join our organization within the next months. Applications are actually in progress.

Partners that did support and are actually supporting our actions



2008



2009



2010



2010



2010



2011



2011



2012

Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
P.O. Box 1191 2501 CC The Hague, The Netherlands
info@prinsberhardnatuurfonds.nl | www.prinsberhardnatuurfonds.nl



Partnerships obtained as part of the 1% for the Planet:



2011



2012 & 2013



2012

For more information about our financial partners: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/discover/our-partners/financial/>

Our partners in communication, information and education

- Association Cheval Culture <http://www.cheval-culture.eu>
- Carnet Equin le Mag' <http://www.carnet-equin.com>
- Cheval Attitude <http://www.cheval-attitude.com>
- ARKive www.arkive.org
- NomadGreen www.nomadgreen.org (Mongolia)
- InfoMongolia www.infomongolia.com (Mongolia)
- ESPECES www.especies.org (French magazine about natural history). An article about the Asiatic Wild Ass and its Mongolian sub-species, written by Anne-Camille Souris, has been published in the Number 7 (March to May 2013) of this magazine.

Mongolian artist partners

To date several Mongolian artists, musicians and singers have joined our Alliance of Mongolian Art & Science for Biodiversity conservation. Further Mongolian artists will join it within the next months. Applications are actually in progress. Susan FOX, who is an American artist - specialized in wildlife and nature art and who knows very well Mongolia - also joined the Alliance as an International expert on landscape and wildlife art.

More information about the alliance here: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-culture-and-biodiversity-conservation/mongolian-art-science-alliance-for-conservation/>

International artist partners

<http://www.goviinkhulan.com/decouvrir/nos-partenaires/artistes-internationaux/>

To date 2 French artists did support our actions by giving us some illustration of the Przewalski's horse and the Mongolian Khulan: Mrs. Charly DEBRAY and Mr. Christophe DROCHON. Further international artists will create additional artwork about the Mongolian Khulan in the near future (in progress).

Mongolian Khulans urgently need your help!

Why to support our organization?

Because

- Urgent actions must be conducted to protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan that represents the largest population of the Asiatic Wild Ass in the world. Thus, protecting the Mongolian Khulan will contribute to the entire species (Asiatic Wild Ass) conservation. Less than 15,000 khulans live in Mongolia, and off-take of khulans for illegal trade has been estimated at 3,000 individuals per year! If we don't conduct urgently any actions and research this species could soon face extinction!
- Our conservation program has secured support from local rangers, governors (administrative subdivisions), communities, and Buddhist monasteries of our study area,
- Our approach (research work and actions) in collaboration with our scientific and technical partners will help enhance knowledge on the Mongolian Khulan behavioral ecology, genetic, nature of interactions with other species and human activities, will contribute to a better understanding by the local population of the Khulan significance in the Gobi ecosystem, will contribute to reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with species and nature protection, will contribute to local community development, to local culture and traditions preservation and will also locally and internationally raise awareness about this species and nature protection,
- To support a professional organization, which in few years has been also able to build a multidisciplinary approach and to develop it in respect with local culture and traditions and to locally obtain some success by raising awareness of the local population living our study area about the Mongolian Khulan protection,
- And because our program could serve as a model for other program conducted on other sub-species of the Asiatic Wild ass and other species worldwide.

~ Our multidisciplinary and innovative approach will ensure success of this program and will help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans on a long term basis ~

Search of funding opportunities do represent for our organization a high percent of our time and a very critical component of our project, because our organization mainly depends on grants, donations, and memberships. All our members are actually benevolent and do work for the organization during their free time. Also, on a general way, donations are only small donations, and are not regularly made. It is vital for our organization to find much more financial partners, as well as to find regular sources of funding to ensure our project success on a long term and enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat on an optimal way.

The **Mongolian Khulan is still not well known internationally**, while this species is as **endangered** as other species much known worldwide. For example, Przewalski's horse and the Mongolian Khulan today are both listed in the IUCN Red List as "Endangered". The population of the Przewalski's horse is increasing while the population of the Mongolian Khulan is decreasing. Because the Mongolian Khulan is less known than other endangered species does also represent a limited factor to find funding. We built several partnerships in communication and information to raise awareness about the Mongolian Khulan protection worldwide and to increase our visibility on the Internet too. Things are moving, but we still have to work a lot to make the Mongolian Khulan and its critical status much known and spread the word about our organization and its actions to protect this endangered species and its habitat.

Our organization has started on April 10, 2012, the **GOVIIN KHULAN Green Business Alliance**, which is an Alliance that will gather together businesses that provide a financial support or equipment to our organization, and then, get involved in environment protection and sustainable development. A new logo, similar to our organization's logo but with a green color, has been created for this Alliance and our partners. "For a sustainable investment in support to environment protection and sustainable development!": <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/take-action/become-our-business-partner-1/>

. How to help protect this endangered species and its habitat?

1) Donate

<http://www.goviin-khulan.com/take-action/donate-now/>

Support our actions by making a donation or by providing us with equipment (e.g. GPS, binoculars, cameras, camera-traps, tents, sleeping bags... that could be useful for our research team and our local partners: rangers, citizen conservationists, Buddhist monasteries, schools, ...).

Even small amounts can make a great difference!

If you live in France you can now make donation every month through MailForGood: <http://www.mailforgood.com/don/associations/association-goviin-khulan>

Or online with PayPal, by check... <http://www.goviinkhulan.com/soutenir/faire-un-don/>

2) If you have a business, make a sustainable investment

If you are a **business company** then, **make a sustainable investment by supporting our actions**. You will increase your visibility worldwide and you will show your involvement in: endangered species and biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, community development and cultural preservation.

You can support our organization as part of the **1% for the Planet or independently**. <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/take-action/become-a-business-partner/>

You can also propose to your staff to:

-**travel with us** to discover wild Equids and other wildlife of Mongolian and the Gobi. Each travel sold by our organization will contribute to fund our actions.

<http://www.goviin-khulan.com/travel-with-us/>

-**donate** to our organization and/or **get involved** and **help us benevolently**

-organize an **event, sport competition** ... in support to our actions.

3) Become member volunteer of GOVIIN KHULAN

Our organization needs volunteers to help our team in: communication, fund raising, educational materials creation, translation (French -> English, English -> French, French -> Mongolian, Mongolian -> French, English -> Mongolian, Mongolian -> English), and other.

If you live in France: <http://www.goviinkhulan.com/agir-soutenir/adherer/>

If you don't live in France you can also become volunteer for our organization, please contact us for more information goviin_khulan@live.fr

4) Take action and become a supporter of GOVIIN KHULAN and Khulan protection

-Organize an event in support to our actions,

-Collect donations,

-Create a piece of artwork illustrating the Mongolian Khulan and/or its habitat.

For more information: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/take-action/contribute-to-khulan-protection/>

5) Travel with us to discover wild Equids and other wildlife of Mongolia, the Gobi and Mongolian culture and traditional nomadic way of life

Each travel sold by our organization will contribute to fund our actions. <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/travel-with-us>

Your support is vital to protect this endangered species and its habitat and to help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans!



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Our goals are to enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat, conserve biodiversity, provide support to local communities and help improve relations between humans, khulans and other wildlife and help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans.

Together we can make a difference!

We heartily thank you very much in advance for your help.



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If you have any question or need any more information, please feel free to contact us.