

# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund 亞洲水鳥保育基金

## PROGRESS REPORT



**There's nothing like starting young!**

South-eastern Khar Us Nuur National Park, October 2006.

### **1. Project Title**

***Support of HUN Club's conservation and  
public awareness activities in western Mongolia***

### **2. Contact person**

*A. Braunlich, P.O. Box 395, Khovd 213500, Mongolia*

*Email: [braunlich@jpn.de](mailto:braunlich@jpn.de)*

### **3. Project commencement date**

*30 June 2006*

### **4. Expected project completion date**

*31 December 2007*

## 5. Summary of activities organised

### 5.1 Acquisition of optics

Ten Audubon Vector 10x42 **binoculars**, two Kowa **spotting scopes** TSN-601, one Kowa **eye piece** 20x, one Kowa **eye piece** 30x WA, and two Manfrotto **tripods** 190D/3001BN, both with Manfrotto **tripod heads** 128 RC were purchased in the USA for 3000 US\$ (good optics are very difficult to find in Mongolia; and they are very expensive here). Purchase and free transport to Mongolia was kindly organised by Dr Richard Reading from the Denver Zoological Foundation. No duty had to be paid to the customs. Transport from the capital Ulaanbaatar to Khovd in western Mongolia was also organised for free through overland transport by a project consultant.

**WWF Mongolia kindly supplemented 600 US\$ to the 2600 US\$ allocated from the AWCF funds for the purchase of the optics!**

A member of HUN Club manufactured bags for the tripods and stay-on-cases for the telescopes to protect them from sand, moisture, scratches and shock. See photo.



WWF Altai-Sayan Field Office  
Communication and  
Environmental Education Officer  
L. Altantsetseg with one of the  
new Kowa telescopes, protected  
by a stay-on-case made by a HUN  
Club member. Khovd, November  
2006.

## 5.2 Field Trip 1

Site: **Khar Us Nuur National Park**, south-western side (Khovd province)

Date: **21 July 2006** (day trip)

Participants: **9 people** (students 5, biology teacher from Khovd State University 1, biologist from the Khar Us Nuur National Park Administration 1, adviser to WWF Altai-Sayan Field Office 1, WWF driver 1)



HUN Club members during the AWCF-sponsored field trip to Khar Us Nuur National Park. This tower near the Tsagaan gol area is probably the only bird observation tower in the whole of Mongolia. July 2006.

During this day trip the south-western corner of Khar Us Nuur National Park was visited. The area comprises of reed (*Phragmites*) – island zone of over 200 km<sup>2</sup>. Birds



observed included 9 species of waterfowl and 9 species of waders. Several globally threatened species were seen: White-headed Duck, Lesser Kestrel, Pallas's Fish Eagle, and Saker Falcon. Due to the super abundance of mosquitoes we returned already in early afternoon from the field.

### 5.3 Field Trip 2

Site: **Airag Nuur** (Uvs province), on the way back also **Khar Us Nuur National Park**

Date: **23 / 24 September 2006**

Participants: **9 people** (students 4 male, 2 female, biology teacher from Khovd State University [different teacher from July] 1, biologist from the KUNNP Administration 1, adviser to WWF Altai-Sayan Field Office 1, officer from Anti- Poaching Unit 1)



A group of students and teachers from Khovd State University, members of HUN Club, at the lake Airag nuur, one of Mongolia's most bird-rich wetland reserves (IBA & Ramsar site). September 2006.



Western Mongolia's second **Whited-naped Crane** (left, with Common Cranes to the right) was observed at Airag nuur during the AWCF-sponsored tour.

This trip was a bit longer. We visited Airag nuur, a 143 km<sup>2</sup> (14,300ha) lake at 1030 m.a.s.l. to the north of Khar Us Nuur National Park. The lake is an IBA and Ramsar Site and is part of the Khan Khokhij - Khjargas Nuur "A" National Park. A roost of 11,000 Cormorants, hunting Pallas's Fish Eagle, Golden Eagles, White-tailed Eagles and a White-naped Crane, only the second for western Mongolia (see photo) were unforgettable sights. We camped at the edge of the lake and got visits from local herdsmen.



Local herders, interested in our activities, cross a river to reach our field camp.  
Airag Nuur, September 2006.

Apart from bird watching a Sumo- and traditional Mongolian style wrestling competition added to the fun of the trip. On the way back we stopped at Khar Us Nuur (see next photo).



HUN Club members observing Eurasian Spoonbills and other waterbirds at Schar nuur in Khar Us Nuur National Park.  
September 2006.

#### 5.4 Field Trip 3

Site: **Khar Us Nuur National Park**, south-eastern side.

Date: **7 / 8 October 2006**

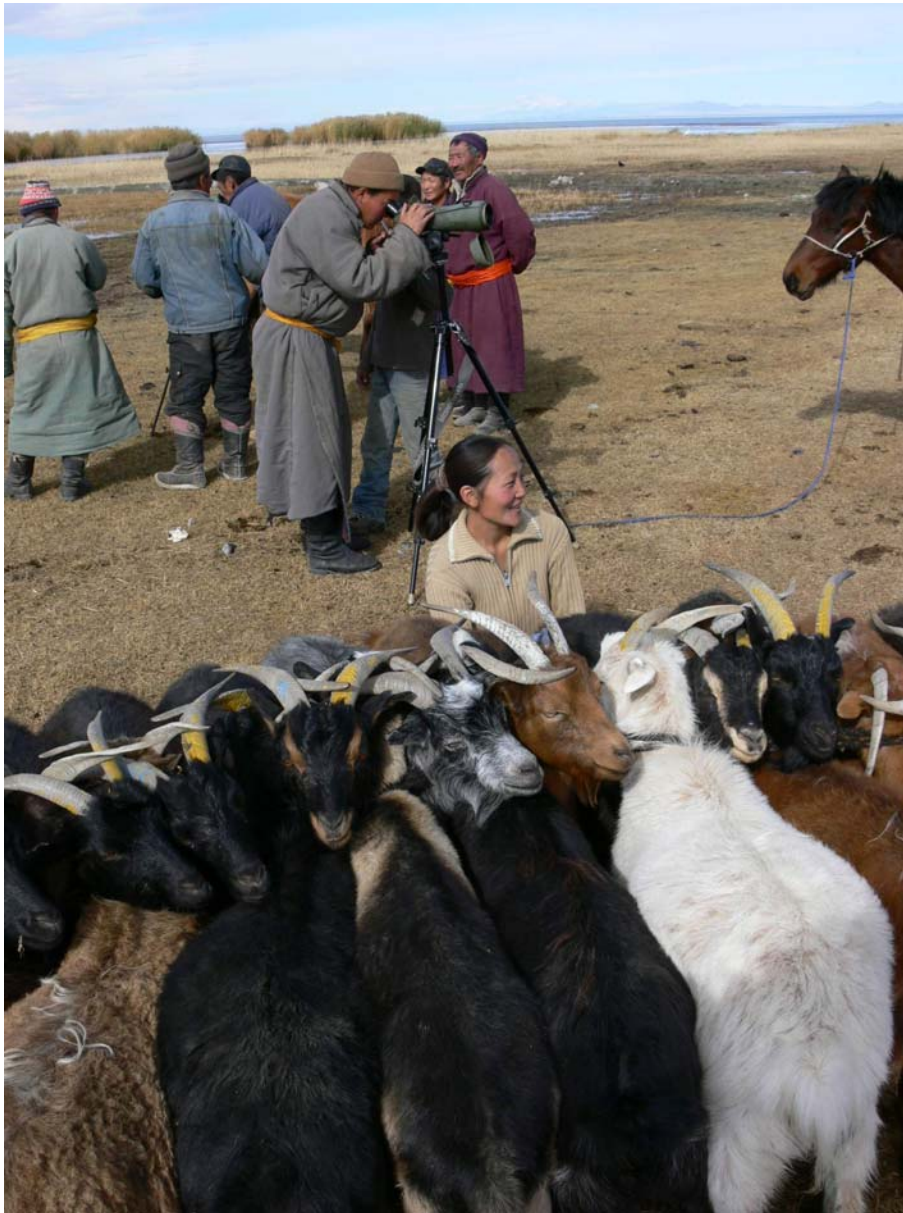
Participants: **14 people** (Khovd State University: German language teachers 2, English language teacher 1, biologist from the Khar Us Nuur National Park Administration 1, students 4 male, 4 female, driver [from the local Kazakh minority], adviser to WWF Altai-Sayan Field Office 1)

The third field trip this year went again to the Tsagaan gol area in the southern part of Khar Us Nuur National Park. But this time the eastern side was visited. We slept in a ger (or yurt, the traditional felt tent of Mongolian nomads) and enjoyed the hospitality of the local people. The trip concentrated more on the identification of birds, rather than surveying a large area. Highlight of the trip was the observation of three Dalmatian Pelicans which were flying high above the adjacent Jargalant Khaikhan Mountain (part of the National Park) with its Snow Leopards.



Struggling to identify all these distant ducks (and Coots)!  
South-eastern Khar Us Nuur National Park, October 2006.





Local herders enjoy a look through the new telescopes while goats are being milked nearby. South-eastern Khar Us Nuur National Park, October 2006.

## **5.5 News-clippings**

A short text on the activities undertaken in the framework of the project will appear, together with a photograph, in the Mongolian language Altai-Sayan newspaper (in print). This is produced by WWF and about a 1000 copies are circulated in the region.

## **5.6 Lectures**

Weekly lectures in ornithology for students of Khovd State University were started from the last week of October.

## 5.7 Further use of optical equipment

Telescopes and binoculars purchased through the project are sometimes used privately by HUN Club members for bird watching in their spare time. Furthermore – when not needed by HUN Club – the optics are shared with local conservation community.



The field trip was attended by students, a biology teacher, a member of the WWF-sponsored Irves-3 Anti-poaching Unit, a staff member of the Khar Us Nuur National Park administration and the international adviser to WWF's Altai-Sayan Field Office.



On behalf of HUN Club,



Axel Bräunlich, German Development Service (DED), Khovd, November 2006.