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Environmental Performance Review of Mongolia: recommendations

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The present document provides recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review of Mongolia agreed by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews at its meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 27 October 2017.

The Committee on Environmental Policy is invited to adopt these recommendations.

* This document was not formally edited.

Chapter 1: Policy making, legal and institutional framework

Recommendation 1.1:

The Government should:

- (a) ~~Establish a multi sectoral multi stakeholder body entrusted with as a high level political body has to guide the national efforts on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or reconfirm the status of~~Operationalize the National SDG Committee under the Prime Minister;
- (b) Proceed with setting up aspiring and measurable national targets;
- (c) Ensure that SDGs are integrated in future subnational development policy documents, and in future sectoral policy documents by aligning the national sectoral policy objectives with the SDGs;
- (d) Seek guidance from the international organizations and institutions on enhancing the availability of data for SDG indicators and promote the sharing of experience with other countries on this issue;
- (e) Continue raising awareness on SDGs with an emphasis on non-governmental stakeholders with particular focus on local communities;
- (f) Ensure the regular preparation of reports on SDGs implementation.

Recommendation 1.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure that SEA is conducted for all national, regional and sectoral policies, development programmes and plans in accordance with the requirements of the 2012 Law on Environmental Impact Assessment;
- (b) Conduct trainings to raise awareness about SEA among the line ministries;
- (c) Develop a list of sectors whose policies, programmes and plans are subject to SEA, taking into account available international practice;
- (d) Revise legislation in order to provide opportunities for participation of affected countries and the public from affected countries in the SEA procedure.

Recommendation 1.3:

The Government should strengthen horizontal coordination on environment and sustainable development by:

- (a) Reviewing the approach to the composition of the interministerial committees and councils in order to base their membership on functional titles;
- (b) Ensuring regular meetings of interministerial committees and councils;
- (c) Making meeting reports of such interministerial committees and councils publicly available;
- (d) Increasing stakeholder participation in such interministerial committees and councils.

Recommendation 1.4:

The Government should:

- (a) Improve the mechanism of agreements between mining companies and local authorities and increase its transparency;
- (b) Revise the permitting process in the mining sector to ensure that outcomes of EIA are meaningfully taken into account;
- (c) Ensure meaningful participation of stakeholders in decision-making process on mining projects;
- (d) Revise the legal framework for artisanal and small-scale mining in order to ease the establishment and operation of artisanal miners' cooperatives;

- (e) Develop policies to create opportunities for artisanal miners to switch to other areas of employment;
- (f) Develop an action plan on rehabilitation of abandoned and damaged mining areas;
- (g) Ensure systematic data collection and assessment of impacts of the mining sector on the environment.

Recommendation 1.5:

The Government should ensure the independence of environmental inspectors at soum level by:

- (a) Making environmental inspectors at soum level be appointed/dismissed by GASI upon consultation with soum Governor;
- (b) Bringing environmental inspectors at soum level under the payroll of GASI;
- (c) Enhancing the reporting by environmental inspectors at soum level to GASI.

Recommendation 1.6:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should give the opportunity to its staff to build experience in their specialization while remaining in their post, and establish operational institutional memory by creating information system containing existing and archived data and information.

Chapter 2: Regulatory and compliance assurance instruments

Recommendation 2.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Ensure that the legislation and implementing regulations for air pollution and wastewater permitting are complete;
- (b) Fulfill its responsibilities for permitting of air pollution from stationary sources.

Recommendation 2.2:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Undertake a review of the criteria and method for licencing entities to undertake detailed EIA;
- (b) Commission an independent audit of the currently licenced entities to verify their qualifications, experience and quality of work and publish the results;
- (c) Seek additional staff resources, or funds for use of qualified external expertise, to support a more thorough evaluation of the quality of EIA documentation at both general and detailed EIA stages;
- (d) Examine options to ensure the transparency and independence of the Professional Council on EIA with, as a minimum, the representation of NGOs in the Council, but also the possibility to introduce an independent EIA commission;
- (e) Reach out to developers to promote the value of a well-conducted EIA, in terms of both better projects and improved public relations;
- (f) Proactively apply the cumulative impact assessment procedure.

Recommendation 2.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Revise legislation in order to include the procedures for EIA in a transboundary context;
- (b) Continue to learn from the international experience and good practices in applying EIA in a transboundary context, including those available in the framework of the ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Recommendation 2.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should develop procedures for and guidance on alternative land rehabilitation as part of biodiversity offsetting, including on timescales, enforcement and whether the legal provision has retrospective effect.

Recommendation 2.5:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Revise legislation in order to include sanctions for non-compliance with the requirement to carry out environmental audit;
- (b) Reach out to companies to promote the value of a well-conducted environmental audit, particularly in terms of operations that are more efficient and of lower risk;
- (c) Coordinate the inspection and review of environmental audits with GASI.

Recommendation 2.6:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring should:

- (a) Review how data are shared between them, including mechanisms and timing, to ensure that data is complete and up to date, covering the full range of permits and licences, self-monitoring data, audits and emissions and discharges, and in sufficient detail, and ensure their publication on-line;
- (b) Ensure that EIA documentation, including environmental management plans, are published online in accordance with the legislation;
- (c) Establish procedures to enable the Ministry to access data in the Environmental Information Centre in such a way as to extract management-relevant information, including for policy review.

Recommendation 2.7:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry should ensure a free flow of relevant information to EITI Mongolia, including information on receipts to a special account for mining rehabilitation funds, petroleum licences, the date of application for mining licences and the reasons for and conditions on the numerous licence transfers.

Recommendation 2.8:

The Government should:

- (a) Design and implement regular compliance promotion activities, with a focus on awareness raising and advisory assistance in adoption of environmental management systems and corporate social responsibility practices.
- (b) Ensure self-monitoring by companies and the publication of results.

Chapter 3: Greening the economy

Recommendation 3.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure that taxes on pollution provide effective incentives for changes in behaviour of polluting companies;
- (b) Adjust the duty rates on gasoline and diesel as well as the separate tax on these products so that they help promoting fuel saving behaviour and the import and use of cleaner fuels;
- (c) Consider the reform of coal subsidies provided to industry and households.

Recommendation 3.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Regularly adjust the established resource base values;

(b) Revise the existing methodology for assessing the monetary value of these natural resources with a view to regularly adjust these to inflation.

Recommendation 3.3:

The Government should:

- (a) Develop and apply tariff methodologies that are focusing on cost recovery;
- (b) Support the installation of meters (mainly water), and improve bill collection rates;
- (c) Introduce a separate landfill tax on the discharge of municipal waste;
- (d) Develop targeted social support measures to address affordability constraints for poor persons.

Recommendation 3.4:

The Government should ensure that:

- (a) Resources allocated to the environmental sector are commensurate with the overall development agenda of the country, in particular the goals and actions defined in Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030, the 2014 Green Development Policy and the national programmes for main environmental domains;
- (b) Priorities are effectively set in a context of limited public resources;
- (c) Local governments make effective use of all the funds earmarked for spending on environmental and nature protection.

Recommendation 3.5

The Government should ensure that all mining enterprises, notably the state-owned entities, have developed a complete and adequate rehabilitation plan that is based on a realistic assessment of costs and that their financial statements include rehabilitation costs in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards.

Recommendation 3.6

The National Statistics Office should:

- (a) Develop a statistical information system for environmental expenditures based on the existing international standard, viz. the Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditures (CEPA);
- (b) Develop data collection and estimation methodology for indicators designed to measure progress made towards the greening of economic growth and disseminate the outcomes to policy and decision makers;
- (c) Build capacities of central and local Government authorities to analyse and use statistical data for evidence-based policy making.

Chapter 4: Environmental monitoring and information

Recommendation 4.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should strengthen the existing environmental monitoring network by:

- (a) Making available increased financial and qualified human resources;
- (b) Resuming regular nation-wide assessment of species;
- (c) Developing a noise and vibration monitoring;
- (d) Improving the capacity of ~~aimag~~ laboratories on environment and metrology through further accreditation, new equipment and capacity building.

See Recommendation 11.1.

Recommendation 4.2:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism in cooperation with the National Statistics Office should improve the data quality, strengthen the use of methods and international standards for data collection, fill data and information gaps and improve the production of indicators and statistics by:

- (a) Improving inter-institutional cooperation and sharing of data between institutions and through different national levels;
- (b) Identifying priority data flows and environmental indicators, which are required to fill gaps;
- (c) Building capacity for data collection and data quality control at the soum and aimag levels.
- (d) Improving natural resources inventories by using IT and GIS based tools to get stronger reliable data to populate relevant databases.

Recommendation 4.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should improve the state of environment reporting by:

- (a) Using the Driver, Pressure, State, Impact, Response (DPSIR) framework in order to be more connected with policy needs;
- (b) Including a non-technical executive summary to the state of environment report to inform better stakeholders and decision makers.

Recommendation 4.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the National Statistics Office should:

- (a) Develop a roadmap for strengthening environmental statistics in line with the national and international requirements;
- (b) Implement the 2013 Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and its Basic Set of Environment Statistics to compile environmental indicators, environmentally-related SDG indicators and environmental-economic accounting;
- (c) Provide training to their staff to increase their capacities to produce environmental statistics that are relevant for the state of environment reporting, SDGs and the System of Environmental Economic Accounting.

Chapter 5: Access to information and public participation in decision-making on environmental matters

Recommendation 5.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Strengthen implementation and enforcement of the 2011 Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information;
- (b) Encourage active dissemination and provision of environmental information by sectoral ministries;
- (c) Promote awareness raising, knowledge and capacity-development for the public, with the focus on the legally guaranteed rights and procedures to access environmental information, including existing mechanisms to facilitate such access.

Recommendation 5.2:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Take the lead in overseeing the functions and work of the Environmental Information Centre, including raising its status and structure and placing it in premises easily accessible to the public, with a view to extend it to a comprehensive “one-window” online portal on environmental information;

(b) Ensure quality of data available at EIC through establishment of Quality Assurance and Quality Control systems.

See Recommendation 2.6.

Recommendation 5.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should ensure effective public participation by:

- (a) Initiating the revision of legislation to extend deadlines for public consultations on planned projects and for public comments to the draft legislation;
- (b) Raising capacity of local authorities and business entities to enable them to proactively engage the public in consultations on planned projects;
- (c) Encouraging stronger use of mobile phones and other electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information and enhance public participation;
- (d) Encouraging NGO participation in preparing laws and policies among organizations outside the Mongolian Environmental Citizens Council, giving them the opportunity to apply for being directly included in the working groups established for developing laws and regulations;
- (e) Encouraging NGOs to develop their capacity and accountability;
- (f) Encouraging participation of NGO representatives in international meetings related to environment.

Recommendation 5.4:

The Government should take measures to prevent the pressure on environmental activists for their environmental activities.

Recommendation 5.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Enforce the provision on exempting public interest claimants from paying the State stamp duty, in accordance with the 2016 Law on Decision of the Administrative Cases at the Court;
- (b) Ensure regular trainings of judges on environmental matters.

Recommendation 5.6:

The Government should:

- (a) Seek advisory assistance and capacity building support from the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention with the view to accession to the Convention;
- (b) Consider acceding to the Aarhus Convention when the necessary implementation capacities are in place.

Chapter 6: Implementation of international agreements and commitments

Recommendation 6.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Undertake an in-depth analysis of the administrative and technical capacity and financial needs of the bodies and units charged with the implementation of the obligations deriving from MEAs;
- (b) On this basis, prepare an Action Plan for the safeguarding of the administrative and technical capacity and financial needs for the implementation of the obligations deriving from global and regional agreements on the environment;
- (c) Submit urgently to the relevant MEAs, through the proper procedures, the communication with appointment of the new national focal points;
- (d) Reinforce the number of staff devoted to MEAs, ensuring strengthened teams for MEAs with more intensive activities and reporting requirements.

Recommendation 6.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Proceed with the accession to the 2016 Kigali amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer planned for 2018 and install the necessary control mechanism;
- (b) Analyse costs and benefits and consider accession to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Recommendation 6.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should approve the Ramsar Site management plans of Lake Ganga, Lake Buir, Lake Achit and Lake Terkhiin Tsagaan.

Chapter 7: implementation of Rio conventions

Recommendation 7.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should continue to pursue implementation of the National Biodiversity Programme, with a view to comply with CBD and to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ensuring an effective coordination mechanism between all those relevant for the implementation of the CBD.

Recommendation 7.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Revise legislation on biosafety, in order to provide a response for damage to biodiversity resulting from LMOs and comply with the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol;
- (b) Adopt legislation necessary for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- (c) Designate a Competent National Authority on Access and Benefit Sharing under the Nagoya Protocol, establishing an effective coordination mechanism between the different institutions who will be involved in the implementation of the Protocol.

Recommendation 7.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Continue using the 10-year Strategy of the UNCCD as the guiding reference for the second implementation phase of the National Action Program for Combating Desertification and further promote the mainstreaming of DLDD into sectoral policies;
- (b) Endeavour to actively engage in on-going negotiations on the future Strategic Framework of the Convention for the post 2018, in order to prepare for the necessary future policy planning adjustments;
- (c) Continue its engagement with activities under the UNCCD, namely at the regional level, sharing its experience and exploring possible partnerships with international organizations and other countries that can facilitate access to additional technical and financial assistance.

Recommendation 7.4:

The Government should:

- (a) Adopt a national adaptation plan and the Second Phase Implementation Plan of the National Action Programme for Climate Change making them both aligned with the most recent strategies and commitments taken internationally on climate change, namely the Nationally Determined Contribution;
- (b) Establish a body specifically dedicated to coordination between line ministries relevant to climate policy, supported by a technical, permanent and capacitated structure;
- (c) Take actions to reduce dependency on international financial resources, guaranteeing the conditions necessary to promote private investment and ensuring the sustainability of capacity building activities.

Recommendation 7.5:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should continue taking into account the linkages between the Rio Conventions and reflect them in the legal and policy implementation framework of each Convention.

Chapter 8: Air protection

Recommendation 8.1

The Government should:

(a) Gradually replace obsolete air quality monitoring techniques with more efficient and less costly organized air quality monitoring network coupled with air quality modelling for locations exposed to similar impacts;

(b) Focus on the monitoring on fine particles (PM_{2.5}), since they have more adverse effects on human health and are less affected by dust ~~and sand~~ than PM₁₀;

(c) Install background monitoring stations in locations, which are not affected by industrial activities and extensive coal consumption, to assess natural contribution to air pollution.

Recommendation 8.2:

The National Agency of Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring in cooperation with relevant international bodies should develop expertise for regular analysis of content of particulate matter, in order to regularly generate data on PM content, such as heavy metals and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and assess the contribution of sand and dust in coarse particles.

Recommendation 8.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should define the methodology for definition of concentration peaks caused by dust storms, which are not counted in annual average concentrations of particulate matter.

Recommendation 8.4:

The Government should:

(a) Ensure implementation of the provisions of the Law on Air regarding monitoring of the emissions from major stationary air polluting sources by regular control of their emissions and provisions related to limitation or temporarily closing of operations of the major stationary air-polluting sources in case of violation of emission standards;

(b) Ensure that fines for violation of emission standards are effective and dissuasive.

Recommendation 8.5:

The Government should ~~consider changing~~ the methodology for calculation of Air Quality Index ~~or lowering the 24 hour limit value for PM₁₀ in order to improve protection of population in episodes of bad air quality.~~

Recommendation 8.6:

In order to allow for proper implementation of the Law on Air Pollution Fees, the Government should adopt precise methodology for estimation of population exposure and calculation of economic cost of the health impact of air pollution, or a methodology to calculate value of damage caused by an exceedance of emission standards on the basis of its duration, toxicity of emitted polluting substance and the level of exceedance.

Recommendation 8.7:

The National Agency of Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring should develop the capacities for compilation and regular update of the National air emission inventory, following, for example, the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook or making it compatible in terms of categories and emission sources data with GHG inventories developed in accordance with relevant decisions adopted by the bodies of UNFCCC or of agreements deriving from it.

Chapter 9: Water management

Recommendation 9.1:

The Government should increase investments in:

- (a) Water supply, sanitation and sewerage infrastructure, with a focus on rural areas;
- (b) The renovation of the central wastewater treatment plant in Ulaanbaatar.

Recommendation 9.2:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and other relevant government bodies should:

- (a) Develop an action plan to shift from the use of groundwater to the use of the surface water resources for various purposes;
- (b) Ensure development and financing of water infrastructure in order to accumulate water resources and provide all sectors with water;
- (c) Consider developing and implementing aquifer recharge schemes in both urban areas and in the relevant regions of the Gobi desert.

Recommendation 9.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should increase the number of groundwater monitoring system logger points (boreholes) with the purposes of improving the water quality, usages and keeping from lowering the groundwater levels.

Recommendation 9.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Provide training and professional development in order to improve the water resources management capacity of the river basin authorities' staff;
- (b) Seek assistance from international organizations and other governments that have adequate experience and knowledge in IWRM plans;
- (c) Ensure the operational consistency of the water databases for data collection, data quality and data exchange between data holders and organisations;
- (d) Create and maintain the national water database and sub-database.

Chapter 10: Waste management

Recommendation 10.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should consider strengthening of its capacity in waste management by establishing a waste management department or a waste management agency, which would act as a Centre-of-excellence and become a driver of waste management improvement.

Recommendation 10.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure that sectoral ministries develop and implement waste management strategies, as applicable;
- (b) Approve the new national waste management strategy and prepare a financing plan for this strategy;
- (c) Ensure that waste management plans are developed and implemented at the municipal level, to avoid inadequate waste disposal systems, such as large dumping sites around cities.

Recommendation 10.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism through the Environmental Information Centre and the National Statistics Office should develop and implement the national waste database and

metadatabase on waste data, introduce data verification procedures and publish annual statistical reports on waste management.

Recommendation 10.4:

The Nuclear Energy Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Consider participation in the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management;
- (b) Develop specific strategy, plans and legislation for radioactive waste management.

Recommendation 10.5:

The Government through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Finance should support development of the EcoPark as a modern waste management centre.

Chapter 11: Biodiversity and protected areas

Recommendation 11.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Support, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports nationwide biodiversity monitoring and research programmes, in particular targeted at threatened ecosystems and endangered species of fauna and flora;
- (b) Update the Red Lists and elaborate the second part of the Red List of Plants;
- (c) Establish, in cooperation with the National Statistics Office, Mongolian Academy of Sciences and National University of Mongolia and other related institutions, an efficient biodiversity information system, utilizing contemporary techniques for digitalized data acquisition, storage, retrieval, processing, and dataset harmonization, with the objective to gather, store and share results of biodiversity monitoring, research programs and projects carried out with the support of public funding, and provide access to this system (with differentiated access and data administration levels) for all relevant stakeholders involved in nature conservation initiatives, as well as promote retrieval of primary data with particular focus on retired scientists of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and universities through dedicated programs;
- (d) Establish and maintain a metadatabase on biodiversity.

Recommendation 11.2:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of national action plans and programmes for the protection of rare and/or endangered species, and if necessary consider their modifications or adjustments;
- (b) Identify other rare and/or endangered species in urgent need for enhanced conservation, develop and implement relevant national action plans and programmes for their protection.

Recommendation 11.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

- (a) Evaluate the current internal zonation pattern of strictly protected areas and national parks, for the purpose of improving their conservation efficiency, in particular for the protection of mainstays, important habitats and migration routes of rare or endangered wild species;
- (b) Revise the protected area zonation, prepare zoning maps based on GIS technology, make these available to protected area administrations and the public, and modify the management plans of protected areas accordingly;
- (c) Extend the protected area network to include at least 30 per cent of representatives from each main ecosystem, and sites important for mountain biodiversity;

(d) Introduce utilisation of spatial planning tools in selection and expansion of the protected area network.

Recommendation 11.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, should support the human and technical capacity building for state agencies, research institutions, and protected area administrations, in particular, but not limited to:

(a) By provision of consistent professional training on e.g. population census of wildlife species, use of best practices and modern technology;

(b) By provision of modern biodiversity monitoring equipment, outdoor equipment and uniforms, off-road and specialized vehicles;

(c) By increasing budgets and raising staff remunerations to a level attractive for skilled professionals, university graduates, young scientists, and rangers, encouraging them to seek employment in the biodiversity conservation sector.

Recommendation 11.5:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should support the development and/or revision of protected area management plans, in particular by involving the relevant international expertise, and ensure further implementation of protected area management plans.

Recommendation 11.6:

The Government should:

(a) Finalize the revision of the 1994 Law on Special Protected Areas to enable the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to address problems of the overlapped land use licences and adopt the revised Law;

(b) Finalize and adopt the new programme on special protected areas foreseeing a roadmap on the planned increase of the special protected areas system, including the enhancement of its management capacity and budget;

(c) Consider increasing the entrance fees and provide that the revenues from the entrance fees are returned to the collecting protected area, in order to enhance the management capacity of strictly protected areas and national parks;

(d) Provide that land use fees from tourist facilities accrue to the protected area and are used to enhance the management capacity of strictly protected areas and national parks;

(e) Provide that tourism facilities within the protected areas pay a percentage of gross income to the protected area in recognition of their privilege to operate a private business in a strictly protected area or national park;

(f) Ensure that tourism facilities within the protected areas such as Khuvsgul and Gorkhi-Terelj National Parks provide their own transportation within the protected area in a sustainable way, with the purpose to minimize the impact of driving on the land and habitat disturbance.

Chapter 12: Land management

Recommendation 12.1:

The Government should:

(a) Finalize and adopt the law on pastureland;

(b) Revise the package of land-related legislation, including by bringing it in line with the 2016 Law on Crop Production;

(c) Improve the mechanism for development of land management plans to ensure cooperation between governmental agencies and organisations at different administrative level;

(d) Promote the upgrading of existing ger districts by providing their inhabitants with access to modern infrastructure such as piped water, sanitation, paved roads and public transportation;

(e) Prevent unplanned extension of ger districts.

Recommendation 12.2:

The Government should establish overall coordination mechanisms for integrated land management among the relevant ministries and agencies, to ensure effective cooperation and practical action on:

(a) Sustainable management of pastureland and cropland;

(b) Protection of land with forest and water resources, as well as land for special needs;

(c) Mitigating land degradation from mining and from the use of unpaved roads, and supporting post-mining rehabilitation of degraded land;

(d) Applying international standards, such as e.g. Corine land cover, to update and maintain land cover information and database.

See Recommendation 1.4(f).

Recommendation 12.3:

The Government should:

(a) Mobilize additional domestic and international financial resources and foster capacity building for effectively implementation of the 2010 National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, covering the period 2010-2020;

(b) Build capacity and benefit from learning and transfer of advanced knowledge and practical technologies of sustainable land management from its partner countries and by collaboration with international organizations.

Recommendation 12.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in cooperation with the National Statistics Office, should initiate data collection for three LDN indicators.

Recommendation 12.5:

The Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAMGaC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry and the National Statistics Office should establish a database on land and land use, including data on crop and hay yield production, which will be filled by relevant institutions while ensuring data quality, consistency, flow and interoperability.

Chapter 13: Forestry and environment

Recommendation 13.1:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

(a) Revise the 2015 State Policy on Forests in light of the findings of the Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory (2014-2016) to reflect the need for increasing the management and sustainable use of forest resources and to ensure evidence-based policy development;

(b) Develop national criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;

(c) Develop a system of national certification for sustainable forest management and bring it closer to international certification systems such as the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Recommendation 13.2:

In order to strengthen forestry institutions at the local level, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism should:

(a) Strengthen operations of the intersoum forest units through provision of equipment and training;

(b) Monitor the work of licensed professional forestry organizations and ensure that licenses are issued/renewed to qualified organizations only.

Recommendation 13.3:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should develop proposals to amend the legislation in order to:

(a) Formalize the status of forest user groups to provide them with the legal rights to use forest resources sustainably;

(b) Ensure that forests under the management of forest user groups are not affected by mining or petroleum licenses.

Recommendation 13.4:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism should conduct a study on the impact of active forest management and use by forest user groups to address the impact on deforestation and forest degradation and the resulting carbon benefits through increased stand increment and avoided forest fires and other causes of forest degradation with support of spatial tools.

Recommendation 13.5:

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, with relevant stakeholders, should:

(a) Conduct an economic and sustainability analysis on the possibility to use residues from thinning and tending operations to produce biofuels such as chips, briquettes, pellets and charcoal;

(b) Develop a comprehensive approach to promote biofuel production, using wood residues, tending and thinning products, for power generation by building efficient wood fired power plants and boilers at soum centres and briquetting for the Ulaanbaatar fuel market;

(c) Develop a concept for supporting small-scale forest enterprises based on forest user groups to create green jobs, provide sustainable wood supply for domestic consumption, heating and cooking and to improve local livelihood.

Recommendation 13.6:

The Government should:

(a) Conduct an analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of reforestation and afforestation efforts;

(b) Make efforts to increase funding for a more effective forest management with a consideration of potential of forestry to support rural livelihood and create green jobs.

Chapter 14: Risk management of natural and technological/anthropogenic hazards

Recommendation 14.1:

The Government should enhance coherence and increase the effectiveness of national disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development efforts by:

(a) Ensuring that future national and local strategic documents on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) are closely linked to and feed into the broader national sustainable development agenda;

(b) Mainstreaming and integrating DRM and climate change adaptation into sectoral and local development plans and budgets;

(c) Exploring the opportunity of developing a joint work-plan or alignment of the national DRM and climate change adaptation action plans.

Recommendation 14.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Conduct inventory, vulnerability and risk assessment of infrastructure facilities in urban areas;
- (b) Provide guidance and support to the redesign and retrofitting of urban infrastructure;
- (c) Ensure integration of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation aspects in the construction, zoning and other relevant regulations.

Recommendation 14.3:

The Government should enhance disaster preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts by:

- (a) Building capacities of stakeholders in contingency planning through training in order to improve their state of preparedness to different hazards;
- (b) Developing, simulating and validating response plans at national and aimag levels to be better prepared and respond to disasters;
- (c) Strengthening capacities (personnel, equipment) of the National Emergency Management Agency;
- (d) Enhancing the coordination and monitoring of disaster response resources;
- (e) Developing mechanisms to improve targeting of post-disaster assistance on the poor, limiting the use of informal disaster coping mechanisms, which can have detrimental consequences for long-term development.

Recommendation 14.4:

The Government should increase awareness of and understanding of DRM concepts and practices of all stakeholders involved in the DRM system by:

- (a) Conducting on a regular basis multi-hazard risk assessments;
- (b) Developing and updating national multi-hazard risk profile and integrating climate change scenario modelling into the national disaster risk profile;
- (c) Setting up a coordination mechanism for data collection and information sharing between relevant entities;
- (d) Raising awareness, educating and building capacities and skills for effective community and citizen engagement in DRM activities.

Chapter 15: Health, food safety and environment

Recommendation 15.1:

The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the National Statistics Office should continue implementation of the 2017 Governmental Resolution No. 259 to define environmental health indicators, ensure collection of the data on environmental health indicators and make them publicly available.

Recommendation 15.2:

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with academic institutions, should:

- (a) Carry out studies on health impact of environmental factors;
- (b) Develop registration of diseases related to environmental exposure, such as those related to asbestos, arsenic, mercury, lead poisoning and legionellosis;
- (c) Carry out in-depth investigations of these disease cases to determine and remove the exposure source.

Recommendation 15.3:

The Government should:

- (a) Develop and implement an overarching strategy for environmental health based on the assessment of the implementation of policy documents related to environmental health;
- (b) Develop and implement thematic national programmes on various environmental health components based on an overarching strategy for environmental health;
- (c) Implement the environmental health action plan in cooperation with relevant stakeholders at all administrative levels.

Recommendation 15.4:

The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development should:

- (a) Continue to implement the water safety plans based on the experience of the water safety plan initiative;
- (b) Ensure the access to safe drinking water and sanitation in all schools and kindergartens;
- (c) Develop actions and policies to reduce water pollution;
- (d) Implement the drinking water desalination programs in the Southern Region.

See Recommendation 9.5.

Recommendation 15.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Ensure that environmental and health impact assessments are carried out and their conclusions are respected;
- (b) Integrate environmental health aspects in urban planning and development in order to develop healthy cities.

Recommendation 15.6:

The Government should:

- (a) Develop and implement actions to limit the emission of pollutants into air and to reduce population exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution.
- (b) Improve national standards on emission of air pollutants.

Recommendation 15.7:

The Government should:

- (a) Collect information and carry out inventory on the use and distribution of asbestos and lead;
- (b) Carry out a study on asbestos exposure including occupational exposure;
- (c) Develop legislation and measures to eliminate the use of asbestos and lead in paint;
- (d) Develop measures to reduce children lead exposure;
- (e) Develop waste management for asbestos and lead.

Recommendation 15.8:

The Government should:

- (a) Adopt the draft strategy on mining and health and implement it;
- (b) Carry out a comprehensive survey on the impact of mining activities on health;
- (c) Implement actions to reduce pollutant emission and exposure.

Recommendation 15.9:

The Government should:

- (a) Establish a database and metadatabase on polluted soils;
- (b) Carry out a survey on the impact on health of chemicals (polluted soils, industrial emissions);
- (c) Implement actions and risk reduction policy to reduce chemical exposure of population.

Recommendation 15.10:

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor should consider accession to the ILO conventions on environmental health issues:

- (a) 1947 Labour Inspection Convention (ILO 81);
 - (b) 1969 Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention (ILO 129);
 - (c) 1960 Radiation Protection Convention (ILO 115);
 - (d) 1997 Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention (ILO 148);
 - (e) 1979 Occupational Safety and Health Convention (ILO 152);
 - (f) 1986 Asbestos Convention (ILO 162);
 - (g) 1988 Safety and Health in Construction Convention (ILO 167);
 - (h) 1990 Chemicals Convention (ILO 170).
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