

**Association GOVIIN KHULAN**  
**Bi-Annual Activity Report 2010-2011**



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**.. Protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat  
and help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans ..**

## **1. Context**

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). Thus, Mongolia currently holds the largest population of the Asiatic Wild Ass in the world and is a very important place for this species conservation. However, the population of the Mongolian Khulan is at risk due to illegal hunting, habitat diminution and fragmentation and competition with domestic livestock to access to natural resources, and numbers have declined significantly from an estimated population size of about 40,000 individuals in 1997 to a population size estimated to about 18,000 individuals in 2003.

Internationally, the Mongolian Khulan is listed in the Red List of the IUCN as “Endangered”, in Appendix I of the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and in Appendix II of the CMS (The 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.

Main threats affecting survival of the Mongolian Khulan are

(source: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/7951>, references page 34, with information also confirmed by our research. GOVIIN KHULAN's reports 2 & 3):

- illegal hunting for meat and skin for commercial use in some areas. It seems that some organs of the Mongolian Khulan are also used in the traditional medicine (traditional medicine: Anne-Camille Souris, result of interviews conducted in 2008 and 2009);
- 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 ;
- 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 claiming that Mongolian khulans damage pastures and ground and prevent livestock access to water sources and grasses.

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, while in the last century, the distribution of the Mongolian Khulan has known a high decrease, especially in the last five decades. Today, the Mongolian Khulan population is mostly concentrated in the southwest Gobi (Dzungarian Gobi) and in the southeast Gobi (Dornogobi aimag) with very few individuals living in the south Gobi (Ömnögobi aimag). Since the 19th century the range of the Mongolian Khulan has diminished by about 50%. Increase of human populations, enlargement of herds of domestic livestock, changes in agriculture, industrialization and an increasing resource extraction certainly caused the decrease of the range of the Mongolian Khulan, and all of these continue up today.

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. Water in the Gobi desert area is a critical resource for humans, livestock production and influence wildlife habitat, but is very rare and very scarce. The availability of water, mostly in the form of springs, lakes, seeks, is highly variable and depends on local rainfall patterns. Access to water appears to be one key for the conservation of wild Equids, and if access to water can be secured it can ensure optimal nutritional care of their offspring without huge energy demands on the mother pre and post-partum. Most water for

human and livestock must be obtained from small and hand drawn wells. Numerous mechanical wells were built during the collective era, but most of them have fallen into disrepair since 1990, then, herders and their livestock are forced to use open water sources that are also used by wildlife.

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. But these migrations seem to be now limited by the railway Irkutsk-Beijing (eastern part of Mongolia), by an increasing resource extraction and the implementation of numerous iron mines in the south Gobi (Ömnögobi aimag) that pushed Mongolian khulans to the southeast Gobi (Dornogobi aimag) since about five years ago. 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.

Off-take for the illegal meat trade is estimated at about 3,000 individuals per year. 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 population decline will be greater than 50% (Moehlman *et al.* 2008 / Moehlman, P.D., Shah, N. & Feh, C. 2008. *Equus hemionus*. In: IUCN 2011. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2011.2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/7951/0>).

Note: Sources and references page 34.

## **2. Background and history of the Mongolian Khulan conservation programme**

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. In 2006 she then started research and conservation work on the populations that occur in the south and southeast Gobi where there was less work towards the conservation of this endangered species. In 2007, she co-founded the **Association GOVIIN KHULAN** / <http://www.goviinkhulan.com> to enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan, improve relations between Mongolian herders and khulans and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

The Association GOVIIN KHULAN is a French non-profit organization. Its members are both French and Mongolian and they live in France, in Mongolia, in Australia and one member is soon moving to the United Arab Emirates.

Research and actions of the Mongolian Khulan conservation programme conducted by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN started during the summer 2008 in the south and southeast Gobi: Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags/provinces.

The first mission conducted during the summer **2008** 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. Two other missions were conducted during the summer **2009** and during the fall **2010**.

The mission conducted in **2009** was funded by a Grant from the 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 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.

This programme 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](http://www.iucn.org)).

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,
- governors of administrative divisions,
- some schools of the southeast Gobi,
- some families and people living in our study area,
- the local population of our study area,
- and two Buddhist monasteries "Ölgii 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.

In November **2010**, we started to collaborate with Dr. Albano Beja-Peireira (Senior scientist “Genes, Population Genomics and Traits” Research group) for research on the Genetic of the Mongolian Khulan and with Dr. Nuno Monteiro (Researcher “Behavioral ecology” research group) who will assist Anne-Camille Souris in her research on the Mongolian Khulan behavioral ecology. These two researchers both work at the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO) / University of Porto.

We have secured since the beginning 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.

Association GOVIIN KHULAN

### **3. Functioning of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN**

#### **. Board of Directors, Active members and Experts of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN**

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 programme, with all activities and writing of reports and papers to consider.

In 2010 (and since 2007), members of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN were:

- Miss Anne-Camille SOURIS (French) – Co-Founder, Chairwoman, member of the Board of Directors, project and research Director and manager (in France and in Mongolia),
- Mme Marie-Aline PONS (French) – Co-Founder, Treasurer, and member of the Board of Directors,
- Miss OYUMAA P. (Mongolian) - Assistant in translation and creation of educational materials for Mongolian citizens (Mongolia),
- 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).

Beginning of 2011, 4 new members joined our organization:

- Mr. BATMUNKH D. (Mongolian) – BSc. Student in Biology at the National University of Mongolia, research and project assistant of Miss Anne-Camille SOURIS (Mongolia),
- Miss Estelle CHASSANIOL (French) – project development assistant for Horseback Mongolia (travel agency based in Mongolia) and assistant for local education, information and public awareness (Mongolia),
- Miss UNDRAKH T. (Mongolian) – assistant in design and creator of our actual Logo (Australia),
- Miss Coralie MENET (French) – assistant in international information and public awareness (soon moving to United Arab Emirates).

#### **. Key project staff for research and actions conducted in Mongolia in the south Gobi**

- Miss SOURIS Anne-Camille, ethologist specialized on Mongolian Khulan ethology and behavioral ecology, member of the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group since 2007, 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. She is the co-founder and Chairwoman of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN and the project and research Director and manager of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN. She conducts research and actions in Mongolia and in France. If she moves to Mongolia, she will be one of the local coordinator of the project;
- Pr. GOMBOBAATAR Sunde, Prof. at the Zoology Department of School of Biology and Biotechnology, National University of Mongolia, founder and director of the Mongolian Ornithological Society which is one of

our partner since 2008. He is member of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN Experts Committee. He is actually a national coordinator of the project. He contributes to help organize field trips in Mongolia (renting of a jeep with a driver, visa, and permits), he provides advice on data analysis, and he contributes in writing of reports and publications, educational supports creation, and management recommendations.

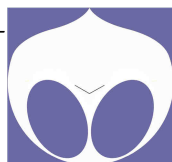
- Dr. BATSAIKHAN Nyamsuren, wildlife biologist at the National University of Mongolia, member of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN Experts Committee, he already did research on the Mongolian Khulan. He contributes to the project with advice on the research programme, and he contributes in writing of reports and publications, educational supports creation, and management recommendations.

- Mr. BATMUNKH Davaasuren, BSc. in Biology, National University of Mongolia, member of the Mongolian Ornithological Society and of GOVIIN KHULAN. He is a national research and project assistant of Anne-Camille SOURIS.

**. Partners for research on the Mongolian Khulan Genetic and behavioral ecology:**

- Dr. BEJA-PEREIRA Albano and his team (“Genes, Population Genomics and Traits” research group), of the Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO / <http://cibio.up.pt>) / University of Porto, Portugal, will be in charge of research on genetic and microbiology of the Mongolian Khulan, in collaboration with Anne-Camille SOURIS. Dr. MUNTEIRO Nuno (“Behavioral ecology” research group / CIBIO) will assist Anne-Camille SOURIS for her research on behavioral ecology and ethology of the Mongolian wild ass. They will join our research team in Mongolia in 2012.

**. Scientific Partners**



- **Mongolian Ornithological Society** (Mongolian NGO for Birds conservation in Mongolia / [www.mos.mn](http://www.mos.mn)) which is our local partner since the beginning,

- **SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group**: our project follow the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group’ research and conservation priorities and we regularly communicate our results, findings, and project development to the Chair of the SSC/IUCN Equid Specialist Group,

- Pr. GOMBOBAATAR S. and Dr. BATSAIKHAN N., **National University of Mongolia**,

- Dr. Albano BEJA-PEREIRA and Dr. Nuno MONTEIRO, **CIBIO, Porto**.

. Local collaborations in Mongolia

- Manager and rangers of the **Little Gobi B Protected Area** (Hanbogd and Khatanbulag sums),
- **Rangers** of the following administrative units/sums: Khatanbulag, Mandakh, Hövsgöl, and Saikhandulaan,
- **Governments** of Khatanbulag, Mandakh, Hövsgöl, and Saikhandulaan sums. Collaboration will be extended to Sainshand and other administrative units/sums in 2012,
- **Schools** of Khatanbulag and Mandakh sum, we hope to extend our cooperation with other schools since 2012,
- **Families and people** with whom we have been working since 2008 (further families and people will be involved in 2012),
- **Two Buddhist monasteries** of the southeast Gobi: Ölgii Khiid (Mandakh sum) and Khamariin Khiid (Sainshand sum),
- 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,
- Other partnerships will be locally built within the following months.

. Financial partners in 2010 and 2011

- **CZS CBOT Endangered Species Fund** / <http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/czs/CBOTGrant.aspx>
- **L'Univers du Cheval** (France) / <http://www.luniversducheval.fr/>
- **La Petite Marmotte** guest-house based in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) / <http://www.mongolia-trip.com/>
- **Equilibre-Gaia** / <http://equilibregaia.com/>
- **ArAnima** / <http://www.aranima.com>,
- **Solutions Graphik'n Print** as part of the 1% for the Planet / <http://www.solutionsgraphik-print.com/>





**. Partners in communication, information and education**

- Association CHEVAL CULTURE <http://www.cheval-culture.eu> (France)
- Carnet Equin le Mag' <http://www.carnet-equin.com> (France)
- Cheval Attitude <http://www.cheval-attitude.com/> (France)
- ARKive <http://www.arkive.org>
- NomadGreen <http://www.nomadgreen.org> (Mongolia)
- InfoMongolia <http://www.infomongolia.com> (Mongolia)

**. Mongolian artist partners**

- Tamir Samandbadraa Chonos Purev (Calligraphy – Mongolia),
- Zayasaikhan “Zaya” (Painting – Japan),
- Undrakh T. (Drawings, design, painting – Australia),
- Ganbold Lundaa “Gawaa” – Lost Nomad (Contemporary art – Australia),
- Gunba R. (Calligraphy – France),
- Tsogoo T. (painting – Mongolia),
- Bataa LamouR (Paper Cut – Mongolia).
- Munkhbat, famous singer in Mongolia (Mongolia)
- Khosbayars B., young musician and singer – traditional Mongolian music and throat singing (Mongolia).

Further Mongolian artists, singers, and poets will join our Mongolian Art and Science Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation in 2012: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-culture-and-biodiversity-conservation/mongolian-art-science-alliance-for-conservation/>

**. International artist partners**

- Charly Debray who made some watercolors of the Mongolian and Asiatic Wild Ass <http://www.charlydebray.blogspot.com> (France),
- Christophe Drochon, who donated to our organization an illustration of the Przewalski's horse <http://www.illustration.drochon.com/> (France),
- Two other artist, one from USA and one from France, will work with us in 2012.

### . A new Logo in 2011

Beginning of 2011, we changed our logo to choose one more professional and that illuminate the endangered Mongolian Khulan as a wild species of Mongolia, part of the cultural and natural heritage of this country. This logo has been benevolently created by Miss UNDRAKH T., with advice from Anne-Camille SOURIS (Chairwoman of GOVIIN KHULAN) and Pr. GOMBOBAATAR S. (Member of the Experts Committee). Miss UNDRAKH T. joined our organization as an active member beginning of 2011.

The Logo includes several symbols of the Mongolian culture. The name of our organization has been written in Latin form, Cyrillic form and old Mongolian form for that the local population can easily understand our logo and for that this project become their project and not only a foreigner project. This Logo also perfectly illustrates how we consider our work and activities in Mongolia: with respect for local culture and traditions and in a close collaboration with the local population which is directly involved in the project. On our logo, the Mongolian Kulan is represented in pair, a female adult with its yearling, because in the Mongolian customs two individuals would symbolize an increasing population while one single individual would symbolize a decreasing population. Which perfectly symbolize our goal: enhance protection of the endangered Mongolian Khulan. In the back-ground, we can see a sun with an orange color that expresses a bright future for the Mongolian Khulan, and also symbolize the Gobi desert which is the actual habitat of this species. The two birds symbolize wild animals and then, reinforce the wild status of the Mongolian Khulan.



**New Logo** of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN created in 2011 - © Association GOVIIN KHULAN

This new logo will be used in several materials, and also on clothes and equipment for our research team and for rangers, local people and monks involved in the project. Some t-shirts, hats, stickers, and others equipment with our logo, will be also donated to kids and local people we will meet in the Gobi.

### . General organization

Anne-Camille SOURIS visit Mongolia at least one time every year since 2008, and usually stay in Mongolian for an average of 3 months each time. But we hope to have soon enough funding to extend her stay in Mongolia at about 6 months per year and even more, as well as to organize at least 3 missions in the field (south Gobi) per year during which Anne-Camille SOURIS and a Mongolian research and project assistant will travel in the south and southeast Gobi for about 1 or 2 months each time.

For now, communication is very limited in the Gobi area, but we hope that it will be soon possible to regularly communicate with rangers and people with who we work and who live in the south Gobi.

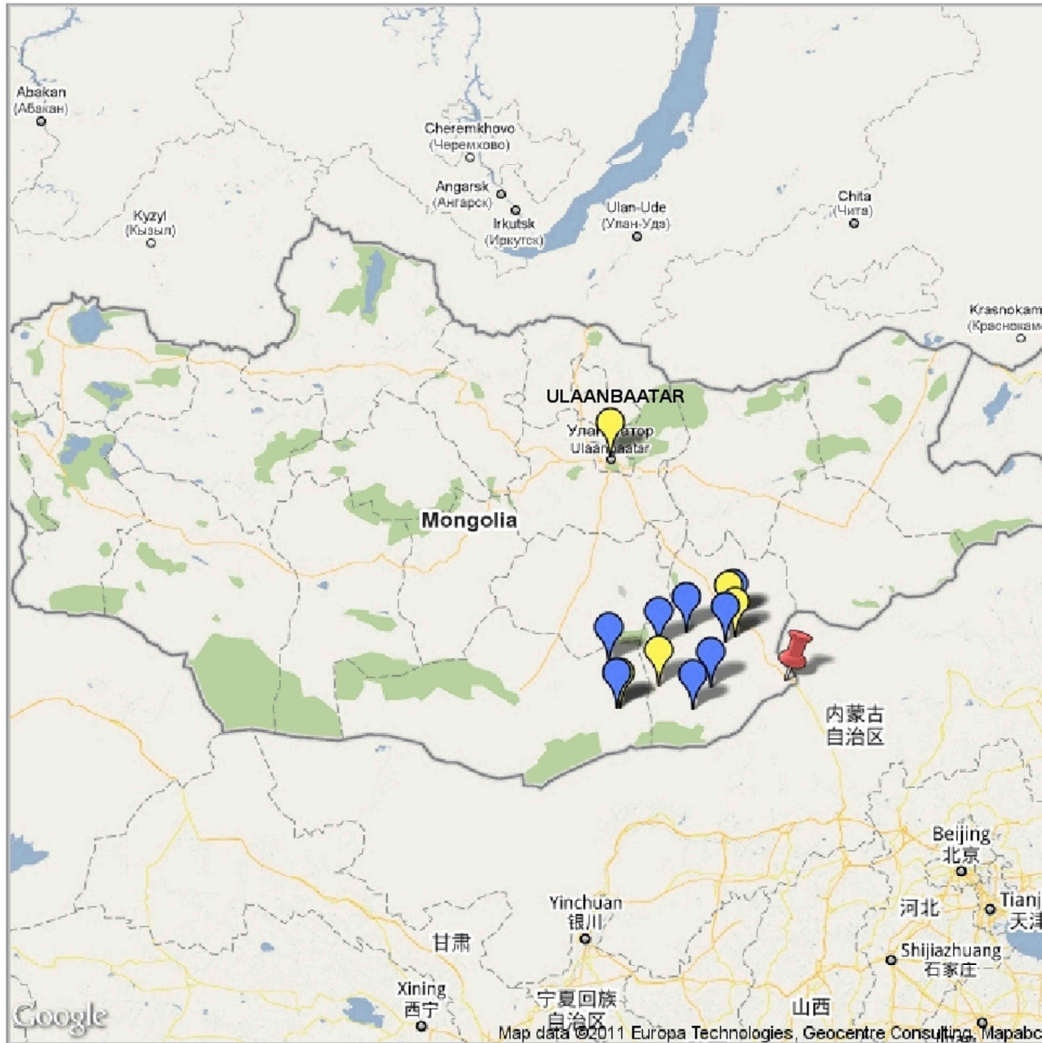
Since begin of May 2011, the Association GOVIIN KHULAN is an **approved partner** of **1% for the Planet** (<http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/en> 1% for the Planet is an alliance of businesses that donate 1% of their annual sales to environmental groups around the world).

Association GOVIIN KHULAN















#### 4. Location of the Mongolian Khulan conservation programme

Since the summer 2008, the programme is conducted in the south of Mongolia, in the south and southeast Gobi: Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags/provinces. It will be 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).

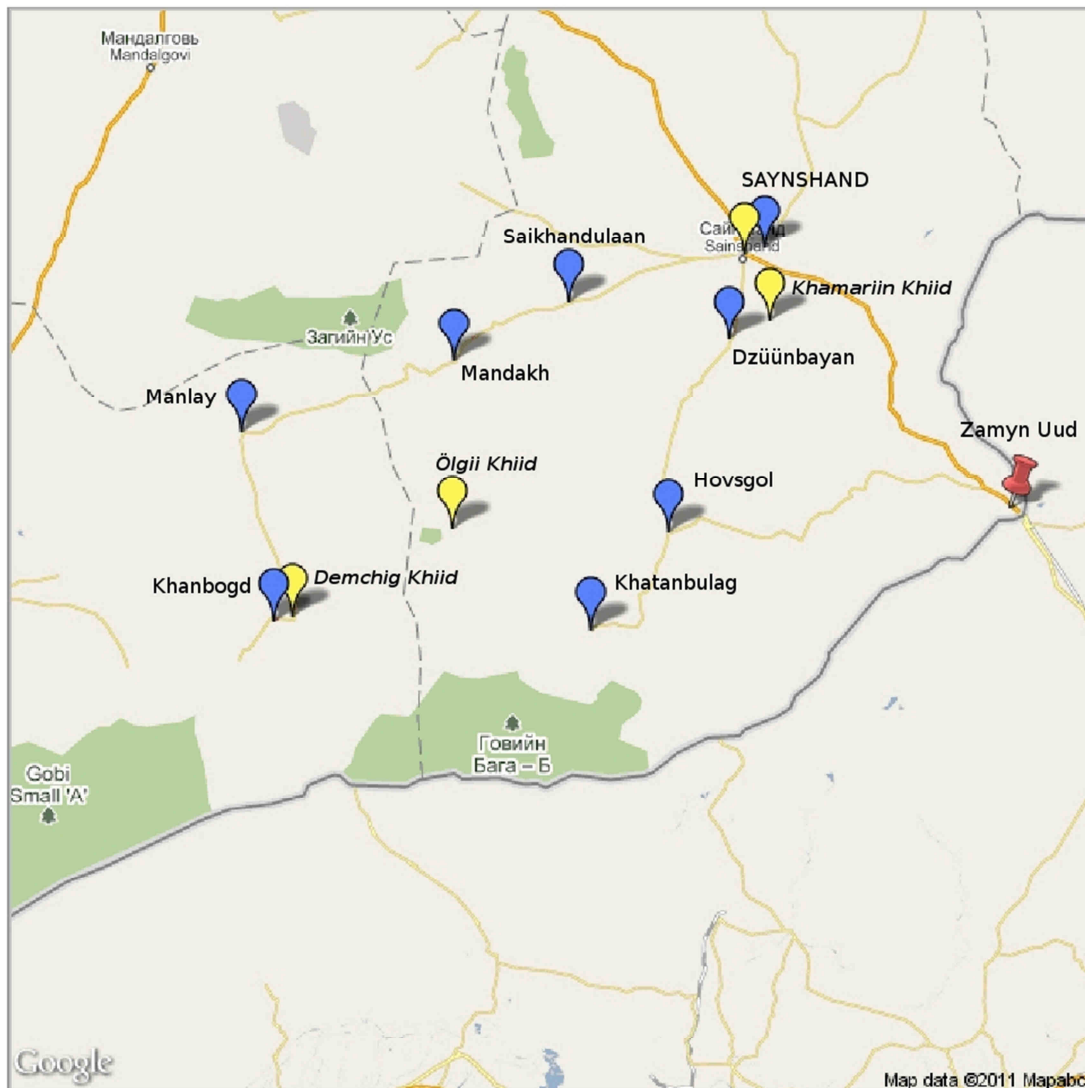
**Map 1 of Mongolia with location of our study area in the south and southeast Gobi**

















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|---|--|---|---|
|  | <a href="#"><u>Ölqi Khiid monastery</u></a>      |  | <a href="#"><u>Saikhandulaan</u></a>    |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Demchig Khiid monastery</u></a>   |  | <a href="#"><u>Hovsgol</u></a>          |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khamariin Khiid monastery</u></a> |  | <a href="#"><u>Dzüünbayan</u></a>       |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Sainshand monastery</u></a>       |  | <a href="#"><u>Gandan monastery</u></a> |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khatanbulag</u></a>               |  | <a href="#"><u>Sainshand</u></a>        |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Mandakh</u></a>                   |  | <a href="#"><u>Manlay</u></a>           |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khanbogd</u></a>                  |  | <a href="#"><u>Zamyn Uud</u></a>        |

**Map 2. Location of our study area in the south and southeast Gobi, with in blue: administrative units centers and in yellow: Buddhist monasteries (including those with which collaborate and those with which we collaborate).**



De goviin\_khulan

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | <a href="#"><u>Ölgii Khiid monastery</u></a>     |  | <a href="#"><u>Saikhandulaan</u></a>    |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Demchig Khiid monastery</u></a>   |  | <a href="#"><u>Hovsgol</u></a>          |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khamariin Khiid monastery</u></a> |  | <a href="#"><u>Dzüünbayan</u></a>       |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Sainshand monastery</u></a>       |  | <a href="#"><u>Gandan monastery</u></a> |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khatanbulag</u></a>               |  | <a href="#"><u>Sainshand</u></a>        |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Mandakh</u></a>                   |  | <a href="#"><u>Manlay</u></a>           |
|  | <a href="#"><u>Khanbogd</u></a>                  |  | <a href="#"><u>Zamyn Uud</u></a>        |

## **5. Our objectives**

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.

1) Use of different scientific methods pertinent to the Mongolian Khulan conservation (e.g. behavioral ecology and ethology, genetic, microbiology ...),

2) Research on illegal hunting and other threats affecting this sub-species survival and their impact on the Khulan population dynamic;

3) Promote public awareness: Financial, technical and training support to rangers working in the study area and implementation of mobile anti-poaching units;

4) Provision of conservation education to the local population in cooperation with schools, province governors, rangers and Buddhists monasteries and providing of information on the Khulan significance for the Gobi ecosystem (that will include its ecological, economic and cultural value);

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

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

5.2) Reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with Mongolian Khulan, other species and nature protection;

6) Education to environmental and animal ethics;

7) Information of the local and international population 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) Our long range goals are:

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 and involve them in eco-tourism we will co-organize with our local partner (MOS);

8.2) to build a Khulan and Biodiversity Conservation Center 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;

8.3) to have an office in Mongolia and create a Mongolian NGO linked to our organization but locally 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 programme 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 programme 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 programme will also lead to the following activities:

- 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,
- scientific publications,
- 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 use all over the year with local people 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. Educational trunks will be also donated to rangers and people-partners of our organization.
- 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.

## **6. Our activities and accomplishments in 2010 and 2011**

A mission has been conducted in Mongolia during the autumn 2010 for a total of 2 months in Mongolia with a total of 6 weeks in the southeast Gobi. This mission was funded thanks to a Grant of 3,860 USD obtained by Anne-Camille SOURIS by the CBOT Chicago Zoological Society Endangered Species Trust, 1,700 Euros of Anne-Camille SOURIS's own contribution, a donation of 150 Euros by l'Univers du Cheval (saddlery shop, France), and private donations and memberships made to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN.

Because of the lack of funding obtained in 2011, we did not conduct any new mission in Mongolia but we have developed the overall programme, we have finished some scientific reports, we started to write two scientific papers and we did several oral communications in France.

### **6.1. Research work**

During the fall 2010, research work was conducted in two times in the south Gobi: one field trip was conducted from September 5 to 12 and a second field trip was conducted from September 19 to October 23. Anne-Camille Souris did attend an international conference on endangered species of Mongolia that took place in Ulaanbaatar between these two field trips.

In addition to our research, we also conducted some actions to: 5) inform and educate the local population about the Mongolian Khulan significance in the Gobi ecosystem and the importance to protect this endangered species and biodiversity, 6) improve our cooperation with local rangers, policemen, sum governors, schools and Buddhist monasteries (to reinforce links between Mongolian Buddhism, Mongolian Khulan and nature protection and grow local awareness to this species and nature protection), 7) involve more people, families and rangers in the project, in the International Khulan Conservation Action Group and in the Khulan Protection Group (created by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN), 8) and start working with some Mongolian artists (living in Ulaanbaatar and in our study area) to promote Mongolian art and culture in support to biodiversity and wildlife conservation in Mongolia and raise environmental awareness of Mongolian citizens but also international people using art and culture.

During the first field trip, we only explored the north of our study area from Sainshand to Saikhandulaan center, then from Saikhandulaan center to the Tsagaantsav area and the Ölgii and Suikhent mountains and then, Mandakh sum center. We finally went to Saikhandulaan center from Mandakh, to finish in Sainshand. We mainly observed khulans in the southeast part of the Mandakh sum, in the Tsagaantsaö area near a company named Tarvas Co. that was closed at this time. A total of about 150 khulans were observed in this area, with some juveniles observed among these 150 individuals that was a good sign after the very harsh winter that occurred in Mongolian during the winter 2009-2010. Later, we observed about 76 khulans on the road between the Tsagaantsav area and the Suikhent area, and later, we observed about 4 khulans at 30 kms in the east of the Ölgii/Suikhent mountains. On September 10, we observed about 7 individuals at 10 kms in the north of the Ölgii/Suikhent mountains and we did not observe any more khulans on the road between Mandakh and Saikhandulaan, neither on the road between Saikhandulaan to Saynshand.

During the second trip, we explored almost all our study area for a total of 5 weeks. Khulans were again observed in the Tsagaantsav area, near the Tarvas Co. where we observed again about 150 khulans, but not at the same place that we during the first field trip. Later, khulans were observed moving while forming a herd of about 200 individuals in the north of the Khatanbulag sum. When we went in the southwest part of the Khatanbulag sum, in the Little Gobi B Protected Area, we only observed one individual khulan in this area (a solitary stallion). On September 30, we went back to the northwest of Khatanbulag, at about 40 kms from



Khatanbulag, in the Ergelyn Zoo Natural Reserve area, where we observed about 1,000-1,500 khulans gathered all together and forming a very large herd. This large herd with numerous khulans moving all together was similar to great migrations as it can be observed for other wild Equids and Mammals. It seems that these individuals did stay in the area for about two weeks. Very few individuals were observed in other places. Ergelyn Zoo is a Natural Reserve and remains undisturbed by human activities. Few families and then few domestic livestock were observed in this area. We only observed a large herd of domestic camels of about 100 individuals located between around 5-7 kilometers from the place where we observed the very large herd of khulans. One day we observed few domestic horses (no more than 10) in this area. Also, car traffic is very low in this area.

From a family we know very well and who have its summer and winter camp at 10 kms from the Ergelyn Zoo Natural Reserve where we observed khulans, it seems that usually lots of khulans can be observed in this area during spring, with less khulans observed during summer and no khulans at all observed during winter. From people and rangers we interviewed in 2008 and 2009 it seems that in autumn, from end of September to end of October, khulans are all focused in a specific place of the Khatanbulag sum, and seem to migrate all together at this period of the year. From Mr. TERBISH Sh., chief of rangers working in the Little Gobi B Protected area located in the Khatanbulag sum, it seems that khulans are also gathered all together at the same place during winter. That we did observed during the second field trip we conducted in the Khatanbulag sum.

In 2010 Mongolian khulans were mainly observed in flat steppe and steppe semi-desert habitat, as well as in undisturbed areas where very few families and livestock live. Very large herds of khulans (gathering about 1,000 individuals) moving all together similar to great migrations of other wild Equids and Mammals were observed in the Ergelyn Zoo Natural Reserve. Big herds of khulans were also observed in the north of the Khatanbulag sum, and in the Tsagaantsav area.

Observations were also conducted on watering behavior, social behavior and organization, and feeding behavior of the Mongolian Khulan, on nature of interactions between Mongolian khulans with other species (wild and domestic) and human activities, and on nature of threats affecting this species survival.

A total of 43 samples of khulan's dungs were also collected as part of collaboration with Dr. Albano BEJA-PEREIRA and his research team from the CIBIO (University of Porto) to study genetic of the Mongolian Khulan. Unfortunately, first it took a long time to get all certificates needed to export such samples, and then, when we got all certificates we learned that the Mongolian government was asking for 1,400 USD of exportations fees for 2011 to export such samples from Mongolia (including CITES permit fees while usually dung samples don't need any CITES permit).

We only found one dead khulan due to poaching, in the Tsagaantsav area, and we also found one dead Mongolian gazelle without horns, that was certainly illegally hunted in the north of the Khatanbulag sum. From rangers of the following sums/administrative units we interviewed: Khatanbulag, Mandakh, Saikhandulaan and Hövsgöl, it seems that few cases of illegal hunting of khulans were recorded during the autumn 2009 and the winter 2009-2010.

More information about the research work conducted in 2010 and results obtained in the Association GOVIIN KHULAN's report n°3.

A total of 4 scientific reports have been written in 2010 and 2011. Two scientific papers are in progress.



Photo 1. A large herd of khulans observed in the Ergelyn Zoo Natural Reserve, in October  
© Anne-Camille SOURIS



Photo 2. Some khulans of the large herd observed in the Ergelyn Zoo Natural Reserve, in October  
© Anne-Camille SOURIS



Photo 3. An area where some large herds of khulans were observed in September 2010 and 2009  
© Anne-Camille SOURIS

Association GOVIIN

## **6.2. Conservation, training and outreach activities**

This project will contribute to on-the-ground conservation activities through the following actions and activities:

### **1) Priority settings and cooperation with the local government**

Results obtained from research and surveys we conducted until now and we will conduct in the near future will contribute to define recommendations and priority settings for this species and its habitat protection, in partnerships with other specialists, local NGOs and institutions, the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia and the Mongolian government.

We will also improve our collaboration with governors of administrative subdivisions, local authority, policemen, and rangers in the near future to implement conservation actions and promote public awareness for this endangered species, its habitat and other endangered Gobi wildlife and species protection.

### **2) Information, public awareness, and education of the local population on the Mongolian Khulan significance in the Gobi ecosystem and importance in protecting this species and its habitat**

In 2010, the project has contributed to information and education of the local population to the Mongolian Khulan and nature protection thanks to: a) a short conference we did in two schools of our study area about the present status of the Mongolian Khulan, its behavioral ecology and its significance for the Gobi ecosystem (schools of the Mandakh sum and Khatanbulag sum); b) the providing of some educational materials to rangers, governors of administrative subdivisions, Buddhist monasteries, schools, and local people, c) the reinforcement of a cooperation we started during the summer 2009 with a Buddhist monastery located in the southeast Gobi (Ölgii Khiid) to reinforce links between Buddhism and compassion with Mongolian Khulan, other species and nature protection and grow local public awareness on Mongolian Khulan protection following Buddhism teaching, with the involvement of an additional Buddhist monastery: the famous Khamaryn Khiid monastery, and d) rangers involvement in information and education of the local people.

Two PowerPoint presentations about the Mongolian Khulan, its behavioral ecology, threats affecting its survival and its significance for the Gobi ecosystem were organized in two schools of the southeast Gobi. All kids we met in these two schools were all very interested by this presentation and to learn more about the Mongolian Khulan. Directors and teachers of these schools were very motivated to cooperate with us and to implement some activities with kids about the Mongolian Khulan. We also met one Nature Club and provided them with some advice of activities to do during the year. We hope to be able to organize some activities with this club since the next mission, to organize much more activities with further schools of our study area, as well as to extend activities to herders and people we will meet during our stay in the Gobi.

Posters about the Khulan (its location in Mongolia, its status and the need to protect this species) were donated to sum\* governors (\*administrative subdivision), to schools, to rangers, to people interested in working us for this project, and the two Buddhist monasteries with which we are working. We also donated some photographs of khulans with written "very rare" ("mash khovor") in red and in Mongolian on the left top side of the photo. We used "very rare" instead of "endangered" or "threatened" to say that the Mongolian Khulan is presently a very rare species in Mongolia and because it would be easier understood by the local population and would a greater impact than "endangered".

Additional information on our website: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/research-and-actions-2010/information-education-and-growing-awareness/>.



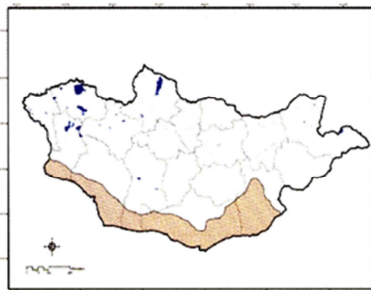
Photo 4 – English class of Mrs. GANTOGS (Khatanbulag sum, Dornogobi aimag)



Photo 5. Photo of Mongolian khulans we donated to kids, people, rangers, and Buddhist monasteries. Is written on the top-left corner: “Mash hovor” that means in Mongolian language “Very rare”.



## Хулан (*Equus hemionus hemionus*)



.Хулан зөвхөн Монгол ба Өвөрмонголоос өөр дэлхийн хаана ч байхгүй.

.1990 онд Монголд сая сая байсан хулан өнөөдөр маш цөөн тоо толгой байгальд үлдээд байна.

**Хулан Монгол улсын билэг тэмдэг учраас бид бүхэн түүнийг устгах биш хамтдаа хамгаалж ирээдүй хойчдоо энэхүү зүйлийг өвлүүлэн үлдээх ёстой !**



Association GOVIIN KHULAN  
<http://www.goviinkhulan.com>



Mongolian Ornithological Society  
<http://www.mos.mn>

Picture: Anne-Camille SOURIS / Translation: Mr. Batmurkh D. / Advice: Dr. Patricia Moehliman / Funding: Chicago Zoological Society

Photo 6. Poster with the actual distribution of the Mongolian Khulan in Mongolia, and information on this species status in the wild.

### 3) Local rangers, governments and people involvement in the project

One of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN's objectives is to involve local rangers working in our study area in the project and research on the Mongolian Khulan and provide them with technical, financial and training support. We collaborate with some rangers working in the south of the Ömnögobi aimag and in the south of the Dornogobi aimag, since the summer 2008. During the summer 2009, we provided to one ranger working in the Little Gobi B Protected area (part located in the Khatanbulag sum, Dornogobi aimag) with one GPS and binoculars and with some training in observations of khulans. Our wish is to provide rangers of our study area with technical, financial and training support applied to Mongolian wild ass, but also to other Gobi wildlife and biodiversity conservation. The Association GOVIIN KHULAN would like to employ some rangers at full-time as well as at part-time to work with us on this project: research, samples collection, surveys on illegal hunting and traffic, conservation education, public awareness and community development.

Since the first mission we conducted in 2008 in the south and southeast Gobi, we started to involve some families and people in the project. Since then, some of them are regularly working with us, record their own observations of Mongolian khulans and collect some information for the project all over the year.

Since the beginning, our project has secured the support of all rangers, governors of administrative subdivisions and people working and living in our study area.

During the mission conducted in 2010, we improved our collaboration with rangers, sum governors and policemen of our study area and involved some more in our project. All rangers we met during this mission expressed again their support to this project and their strong wish to work with us for this species conservation. Some of them are now working with us since the summer 2008 and some other since the summer 2009. All provinces governors of this study area are also supporting this project and really wish to cooperate with us.

We already collaborate with rangers of the Khatanbulag sum (who are working in the Little Gobi B Protected Area) since the summer 2008. As part of this collaboration, we provided to Mr. TERBISH Sh. - chef of rangers in the Khatanbulag sum - with note books and educational materials. He will also look for young herders and people interested in getting involved in the project, and will also collect himself some information and photographs that he will record on a notebook we donated to him (with 10 notebooks, 10 posters and 10 photographs for herders and people he knows). Information he will record will be added together with our own information in a common report. Notebooks and educational supports were also provided to rangers of this area and of other administrative subdivisions with who we collaborate.

We also involved some additional people and the chief of rangers of the Khatanbulag sum in the "**International Khulan Conservation Action Group**" (Anne-Camille SOURIS co-created in 2008 with the Association GOVIIN KHULAN / <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/khulan-conservation-action-group/>). Another ranger of the Khatanbulag sum, one governor of an administrative subdivision, two people we know since the summer 2008 and who did agree to be involved in our project, have all been involved in the "**Khulan Protection Group**" created by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN during the fall 2010 (<http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/khulan-protection-group-g-k>).

. The **International Khulan Conservation Action Group** is a network that gathers together all experts, professionals, organizations and people involved in the Mongolian wild ass or "Khulan" (*Equus hemionus hemionus*) conservation in and ex-situ. This action group has been created on the 4th of October 2008 by the association GOVIIN KHULAN and Anne-Camille SOURIS, to contribute to a better communication and cooperation between all Mongolian Khulan's experts, organizations and people interested in acting for

Mongolian wild ass conservation: researchers, specialists, NGOs, non-profit organizations, rangers and specialists working in protected areas and for wildlife management, staffs, and local people, in Mongolia and other countries where populations of Mongolian Khulan are also living. Meetings and workshops (with training sessions for rangers and people) could be organized by this action group and its members will collaborate to define priorities for research, conservation actions and conservation education programmes, management recommendations, ... And other activities.

. The **Khulan Protection Group** is a group created by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN during the fall 2010 and it will be locally managed by our organization. Its aim is to involve local people in protection of the endangered Mongolian wild ass and to make them ambassadors of this endangered species protection. Several activities will be organized with the local population, rangers and our local partners living in the south and southeast Gobi (Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags) to enhance Mongolian wild ass protection and change the local population appreciation for this endangered species. It will also contribute to reinforce links between our scientific team and local people for a long term success of this species protection.

We also visited families and people who were already involved in the project since the summer 2008 and the summer 2009 and discussed with them about information they recorded during the previous year, for example: one man living in the Buddhist monastery (Ölgii Khiid we know very well), is working with us since the summer 2008 and record information and observations almost every year; and one family living in the same Buddhist monastery is also collecting information for us since the summer 2009. We did not travel in all the study area because we did not have enough time for. So we did not meet all people we met during the previous years and to who we donated some notebooks to record their information.

We involved some additional people and families in our project. We provided to each of them with notebooks to record their own observations all over the year, plus some of the educational materials we created this year. Then, we involved in the project another family we know since the summer 2008 as they now moved to the countryside where they will live all round year to look after their livestock. One man, a famous teacher of our study area who is now retired, went with us for around 2 days in the field and is strongly interested to continue working with us. We went with him in the Little Gobi B Protected area where he is living with his family. We provided him with some notebooks to record his own observations and ideas, and some educational materials to talk to people all over the year about the Mongolian wild ass significance for the Gobi ecosystem.

Most of people we met during were very interested by the project and wished to be involved in it throughout the year. Then, we involved additional people and families in our project and provided them with notebooks to record their own observations all over the year, plus some of the educational materials we created this year. One man, a famous teacher of our study area who is now retired, went with us for around 2 days in the field and is strongly interested to continue working with us. We went with him in the Little Gobi B Protected area where he is living. We also visited families and people who were already involved in the project since the summer 2008 and the summer 2009 and discussed with them about information they recorded during the previous year: one man living in the Buddhist monastery (Ölgii Khiid we know very well), is working with us since the summer 2008 and record information and observations almost every year; one family living in the same Buddhist monastery is also collecting information for us since the summer 2009; and another family we know since the summer 2008 and we started to involve in our project this year because they moved from the village to the countryside and will stay there all year round with their livestock.



Additional people and professionals were involved in the “International Khulan Conservation Action Group” and in the “Khulan Protection Group” created by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN (see above for more information).

One of our objectives is to involve much more people and families in the project, and to provide them with technical, financial/in-kind and training support. And also to implement a community project in our study area in which:

- Commercial outlet and training support will be provided to some families and people for hand-made articles and artworks,
- People will be involved in research and samples collection,
- and the local community will be involved in eco-tours and birds and wildlife watching tours our organization will co-organize with the Mongolian Ornithological Society and will directly benefit from these tours.

The objectives of this community project are:

- a) To reduce illegal hunting and trade of endangered wildlife (such as Mongolian khulans),
- b) to contribute in income diversification to reduce poverty by providing additional financial opportunities to the local community of our study area and to motivate herders to decrease the size of their livestock herds and number of cashmere goats that will contribute to reduce overgrazing,
- c) To directly involve local communities to protect the Mongolian Khulan, other Gobi wildlife and its habitat
- d) And reinforce the cultural, ecologic and economic value of the Mongolian Khulan.



**Photo 7.** Woman – living in the Tsagaantsav area - we involved in the project and to who we donated a notebook in which she will record her own observations all over the year.  
© Anne-Camille SOURIS

#### 4) Student involvement and training

One BSc. degree student in Biology at the National University of Mongolia, Mr. BATMUNKH D., joined the team for this mission. Anne-Camille SOURIS trained him in behavioral observations of Mongolian khulans, record of information, collection and preparation of Mongolian wild ass's dung samples. He was involved in educational activities and all activities conducted as part of the project. He has been working very hard during the all mission and helped Anne-Camille Souris a lot for each step of the mission. He strongly wishes to work again for this project and study Mongolian wild ass behavioral ecology applied to its conservation. He is the present candidate to prepare his PhD on Mongolian wild ass as part of this project and under the Anne-Camille SOURIS's supervision, after he will have obtained his MSc. Degree. End of 2010, he also joined the Association GOVIIN KHULAN as an active member and is still assisting Anne-Camille Souris and other members in several projects conducted by our organization.

#### 5) Reinforcement of links between Mongolian culture and traditions with Mongolian Khulan, other wildlife and nature protection

##### Component 1. Reinforce links between Mongolian Buddhism with the endangered Mongolian Khulan, other wildlife and species and nature protection

During the summer 2009, we started to collaborate with a small Buddhist monastery (the Ölgii Khiid, located near a sacred mountain, the Ölgii mountain, located in the Mandakh sum – Dornogobi aimag) and their monks. The aim of this collaboration is a) to reinforce links between Mongolian Buddhism and compassion, with species and nature protection, b) to promote public awareness on Mongolian Khulan, other wildlife and nature protection following Buddhism teaching, c) to reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with nature protection, and e) to increase the population appreciation for the Mongolian Khulan. We know this small monastery since the summer 2008, and every year since then we regularly spend some days at this place. We built some strong relationships with one family, the monks and all the community living there. The monk at the head of this monastery suggested to speak all over the year to people that will visit this monastery or that he will meet while travelling around, and then, to explain to them the significance of the Mongolian wild ass in the Gobi ecosystem, the importance in protecting this species and its habitat, following Mongolian Buddhism (which is very close to Tibetan Buddhism) and by including somewhat Mongolian Shamanism (which has some influence in the Mongolian Buddhism), then, telling to people that if they hunt khulans they could get a malediction and then, for example have an accident. Some people and friends told us that some people who have illegally hunted a khulan had an accident few days later. True or not, it just shows that Buddhism and Shamanism do have an important space in local traditions.

During the mission conducted in 2010, we improved our collaboration with this Buddhist monastery and started to collaborate with another Buddhist monastery, very famous in Mongolia, in the Gobi and internationally: Khamaryn Khiid which is located at about 50 kilometers from the town of Sainshand.

With monks of these two monasteries we decided to extend actions to all wildlife of the Gobi and not only to the Mongolian Khulan, as well as to extend actions to nature protection on a general way.

Following advice of the monks, we had chosen all together two days of September to celebrate the Mongolian Khulan and the Gobi wildlife. **18th of September** has been chosen to celebrate the “**Khulan Day**” (Khulan is the Mongolian name for the Mongolian wild ass) and **10th of September** has been chosen to celebrate the “**Gobi wildlife Day**”. Celebrations will be organized every year on September 10th and 18th in each Buddhist monasteries of our study area that are partners of our organization. Activities will be also

organized with schools, rangers, town halls and governors of each administrative subdivisions of our study area. During the next mission we will chose a new day to celebrate nature protection in the Gobi area.

On a morning of October, two monks of the Ölgii Khiid monastery had sacred the Mongolian wild ass following Mongolian Buddhist traditions. To symbolize this act and following Mongolian traditions, we donated on a blue "khatag" (blue scarf), a photograph of Mongolian khulans with two small statues of lions in iron. This photograph will be put inside of the monastery, on the altar, with the two statues of lions in both sides of the photo to increase the sacred value of the Khulan. The monks of Ölgii Khiid will talk all over the year to people that will visit this monastery or people they will meet while travelling in this area, about the Mongolian wild ass significance for the Gobi ecosystem and the urgent need to protect this species. They will also talk to people during the Tsagaan Sar celebration (white moon celebration) which correspond to the lunar New Year festival and which is a very important celebration in Mongolia, as well as during other important celebrations in Mongolia.



**Photo 8.** Young monk of the Ölgii Khiid during the celebration that made sacred the Mongolian Khulan, following Buddhism Traditions. © Anne-Camille SOURIS

**Photo 9.** Monk of the Ölgii Khiid with posters and photos we donated to him.

© Anne-Camille SOURIS



© Anne-Camille SOURIS

**Component 2. Reinforce links between Mongolian art and culture with the endangered Mongolian Khulan, other wildlife and species and nature protection**

The project manager and Chairwoman also met with some Mongolian artists and with the manager and the director of two art galleries of Ulaanbaatar (Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery and Tsagaandarium art museum and gallery) and she involved a technology teacher of the Gobi area to promote Mongolian Art and Culture in support to Mongolian wild ass and nature protection. This project will also take part of our approach to reinforce links between Mongolian culture with species and nature protection.



**Photo 10. School of Khatanbulag – Artwork made by students of the Technology class and the teacher.**

First, we wish to organize an event in Ulaanbaatar that will be dedicated to the endangered Mongolian Khulan protection. By using Art as a visual support and thanks to conferences that will be organized during each event, this project will help inform and grow public awareness on present environmental problems and biodiversity status in Mongolia and in the Gobi area, and the need to protect nature and its biodiversity. It will be also an opportunity for Mongolian artists to express their point of view on these topics. Some of the artworks that will have been done for this project could be used to illustrate educational supports that the Association GOVIIN KHULAN will create for its project for Mongolian wild ass protection. The same event will be after organized in the town of Sainshand.

Then, we wish to extend this project to the south and southeast Gobi, where our project for the Mongolian Khulan conservation is conducted. It would involve the local population living in our study area (kids and schools, people, technology teachers, Buddhist monks ...) and more Mongolian artists living in these areas. This project will contribute to the community development project conducted by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN in these areas. We already secured the support of the Technology teacher of school of the Khatanbulag sum for this component.

And in the near future, we also wish to co-organize other events and activities that will involve several organizations and projects acting for biodiversity conservation in Mongolia, where artworks will be created by Mongolian artists but also maybe by international artists. This second event will be organized on the same basis than the first event. More information here: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-art-culture-to-support-biodiversity-conservation/>.

In September 2011, we created the **Mongolian Art and Science Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation**, which is supported by several Mongolian artists, musicians, and singers. It is a new concept that has not been previously created. More information about this Alliance here: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/explore/mongolian-culture-and-biodiversity-conservation/mongolian-art-science-alliance-for-conservation/>

We hope that these two approaches: a) reinforcement of links between Mongolian Buddhism with species and nature protection and b) reinforcement of links between Mongolian culture and traditions with species and nature protection, will help to change the population appreciation for the Mongolian Khulan and will increase the cultural, economic and ethical value of this endangered species in Mongolia. These two approaches will also contribute to Mongolian culture and traditions conservation, and will also have an impact on protection of other endangered Gobi wildlife and the Gobi ecosystem. This project will also have a wide impact as it will be promoted worldwide, then promoting public awareness on Mongolian wild ass protection and biodiversity conservation all around the world.

### **6.3. Communication**

#### **. Press**

We did not publish any articles in journals or magazines in 2010 and 2011. While an article of 7 pages was published in 2009 in a French magazine about Ungulates ("Sabots" magazine).

One article, written by Anne-Camille SOURIS, will be published in 2012 in a French magazine about Natural History (Espèces [www.especies.org](http://www.especies.org)).

#### **. Oral communication and conferences**

- Anne-Camille SOURIS did attend in September 2010 an international conference on endangered species of Mongolia that was organized from September 12 to 16 in Ulaanbaatar.

- Anne-Camille SOURIS did participate to 2 public events about Central Asia organized in Paris, France, by La Maison d'Asie Centrale: On December 11, 2010, and on February 10, 2011.

#### **. Internet visibility**

The websites of our organization have been both rebuilt (French and English versions).

In 2010 and 2011 several pages were also created on Facebook and one profile was also created on Twitter to promote activities conducted by the Association GOVIIN KHULAN, increase our visibility on the Internet as well as to raise public awareness about Mongolian Khulan protection and biodiversity conservation. To date,

we have 3 Facebook pages and we share one page with the Mongolian Ornithological Society for birds and wildlife watching tours in Mongolia. We have a high percent of Mongolian people, based in Mongolia and abroad, who joined our pages and regularly follow our updates.

**List of our FB pages:**

**- Association GOVIIN KHULAN:**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Association-GOVIIN-KHULAN/119598524779600>

**- Mongolian art and culture in support to biodiversity conservation:**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Mongolian-art-and-culture-in-support-to-biodiversity-conservation/181286151945006>

**- Save the Mongolian Khulan:**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Save-the-Mongolian-Khulan-%D0%A5%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD/195390043839596>

**- Birds and wildlife of Mongolia / oiseaux et faune sauvage de Mongolie (page we share with the Mongolian Ornithological Society):**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-GOVIIN-KHULAN/119598524779600#!/pages/Birds-and-wildlife-of-Mongolia-oiseaux-et-faune-sauvage-de-Mongolie/206749169358729>

We have also joined several groups about some areas where we conduct our project and in which we regularly post some photos or information about our project and we communicate with people who come from or are living in our study area. It represents a good opportunity to raise awareness about the Mongolian Khulan protection but also to collect some information about threats affecting this species survival and about local people's appreciation for the Mongolian Khulan.

Our websites are also mentioned on several other websites in France, in Mongolia and abroad.

## **7. Financial summary**

. In **2010** our organization **received**:

- 3,860 USD from the CZS CBOT Endangered Species Fund
- 150 Euros from L'Univers du Cheval (France)
- 170 Euros of private donations made to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN
- 1,700 Euros from Anne-Camille SOURIS
- 50% of discount by La Petite Marmotte guest-house to Anne-Camille SOURIS during the all period of stay in this guest-house (Ulaanbaatar)

and our **expenses were** of a total of **3,860 USD + 2,020 Euros** for the mission conducted during the fall 2010.

. In **2011** our organization received:

- 56 Euros of private donations made to the Association GOVIIN KHULAN,
- 31 Euros of memberships,
- 100 Euros from Equilibre-Gaia,
- 454 Euros from ArAnima,
- and 250 business cards from Solutions Graphik'n Print as part of the 1% for the Planet.

And our **expenses** were of a total of 3,29 Euros of PayPal fees, 11,70 Euros for administrative formalities for a check lost.

Some applications for funding have been sent in 2011. Some applications were not selected while some are actually pending. A project presented by Anne-Camille SOURIS and related to one component of our overall approach for the Mongolian Khulan conservation has been pre-selected for the ROLEX Award for Enterprise 2012 and the final decision will be known in June 2012. An application to the Prince Bernard Fund for Nature has been pre-selected and the final decision should be known in March 2012. And requests for financial support have been also sent to various businesses, organizations, ... based in France and worldwide.

**An International Campaign for the endangered Mongolian Khulan Conservation** will be soon launched.

Our websites (French and English versions) are both sponsored by Jimdo since 2008. In 2008, SPOT Europe donated one SPOT satellite messenger to our organization.

Anne-Camille Souris devoted a high percent of her time, on a volunteer way, to the management of the Association GOVIIN KHULAN, and to research and actions in France and in Mongolia. All other members and experts also work on a benevolent way for this organization. Then, we did not expend any fees for employment in 2010 and 2011. We only did expend stipend fees for the Mongolian student who joined our research team in the field in 2010.

On a general way we very carefully manage our expenses all over the year for that the highest percent of donations, grants and other funding we receive go directly to research and actions we conduct in Mongolia.

### 8. How to help?

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. The fact that 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 much known and spread the word about our organization and its actions to protect this endangered species and its habitat.

Our organization is studying a new concept for financial partnerships that should be release in March 2012.

#### . Why to support our organization?

. Because we are the **only organization in Mongolia** acting to protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat in the **south and southeast Gobi (Ömnögobi and Dornogobi aimags)**, in a close collaboration with the local rangers and population and with respect for needs, difficulties, traditions and culture of the local population,

. Because we are the first organization to have built a **multidisciplinary and innovative approach** directly involving local rangers and people to protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan and its habitat, and because **we have secured support** since the beginning from rangers, local governments and communities, and Buddhist monasteries,

. Because **very few actions and research** are **conducted** for the Mongolian Khulan conservation in Mongolia,

. Because urgent actions are needed to protect the endangered Mongolian Khulan that represents the largest population of the Asiatic Wild Ass in the world. Protecting the Mongolian Khulan will contribute to the entire species conservation: the Asiatic Wild Ass. Less than 18,000 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!**

. Because our approach will also contribute to a **better understanding** by the local population of the Khulan significance in the Gobi ecosystem, will contribute to **local community development** 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 obtain locally some success by raising awareness of the local population living in the south and southeast Gobi about the Mongolian Khulan protection,

. And because our approach will also contribute to **reinforce links between Mongolian culture and traditions with species and nature protection**, and will also contribute to **local culture and traditions preservation**.

**Our multidisciplinary and innovative approach will ensure success of our project and will help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and human on a long term basis.**

**. How to help us?**

- By making a donation, once or regularly, or by providing us with equipment. Even small contributions can be of great help for the project.

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

- Travel with us to discover wildlife of the Gobi. Each travel sold by our organization will contribute to fund our actions.

- Spread the word around you and become an ambassador of nature protection in respect for needs, difficulties, traditions and culture of the local population.

**Your support is vital for this endangered species protection and to help reach a better harmony between nature, animals and humans! We heartily thank you very much in advance for your support!**

If you want to support our actions, please follow this link: <http://www.goviin-khulan.com/support-us/> or contact us at: [goviin\\_khulan@live.fr](mailto:goviin_khulan@live.fr)

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