

Considering its achievements, the project implementation was cost-effective and most of the Trust Fund activities were carried out within budget. The project was successful at leveraging co-financing funds and in-kind contributions, notably from the institutions of the international researchers involved with the project, many of which covered staff time, loaned equipment and hosted the Mongolian researchers during international learning exchanges, providing numerous invitations to join trips and meetings.

4.1.2 Impacts

- An outcome indicator was not established specifically for capacity building. However, the project is one of only two Bank-implemented 'targeted research' GEF projects and the STAP encouraged the project to do as much as possible to build capacity.
- Twenty-three young Mongolian graduates were hired and trained in specific scientific areas for monitoring environmental change and mitigation. Three researchers dropped out of the program after the first year. Specific scientific training included augmenting their earlier training in climate change, plant ecology, carbon budgets, forest insect assessment, forest regeneration processes, forest tree growth and age structure analyses, soil characterization, bird, small and large mammal population assessments, water quality analysis, algae diversity, aquatic insect and fish population analyses, and socioeconomic and marketing analyses and marketing.
- The integration of the results into an Ecosystem Model at an extended workshop was facilitated by visiting international scientists and a Mongolian doctoral student from the University of Pennsylvania. This workshop was possible through additional funding from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, NY, and the Bank-executed Netherlands-Mongolia Trust Fund for Environmental Reform which also supported the project researchers to visit the laboratories and field study sites of the above and other international scientists.
- These exchange opportunities have encouraged collaborative research and co publication of the findings of the targeted research. Many of these collaborations are continuing largely because of the efforts of the researchers to excel in their respective scientific fields.

In addition, the evaluator states: "There is a significant or high likelihood that the impact of all the capacity building will be sustained. The researchers of the Hovsgol GEF project are developing scientific papers for publication, many of which will be published in international scientific journals." Several papers will also be published internally in Mongolia and postgraduate degrees obtained.

4.2 Likelihood of sustainability. Using the following sustainability criteria, include an assessment of **risks** to sustainability of project outcomes and impacts based on the information presented in the TE. Use a four point scale (4= no or negligible risk to 1= High risk)

A Financial resources	Rating: L
The project was successful at leveraging co-financing funds and in-kind contributions, notably from the institutions of the international researchers involved with the project, many of which covered staff time, loaned equipment and hosted the Mongolian researchers during international learning exchanges, providing numerous invitations to join trips and meetings. There is no indication that there won't be any more financing.	
B Socio political	Rating: L
The political sustainability is high because the project was designed to respond to the Mongolian National Environmental Action Plan 2000 which identified as major environmental issues both the role of melting permafrost in generating carbon dioxide and the need to control deforestation and forest degradation especially in relation to the management of protected areas and buffer zones, such as through the effects of grazing and fire. It is expected that the government will continue supporting this.	
C Institutional framework and governance	Rating: L
The establishment of a Turag Herder NGO was facilitated by the social science researcher, and for the first time this group of nomads found benefits from working and acting as a group. They were the focus of the work of one student in 2005 and two in 2006 from the Wharton Business School who helped determine ways to improve their markets. This NGO was active during the course of the project, but realistically it is unlikely to be sustainable after project closing because of the lack of capacity and organizational skills of the members.	
In addition, the terminal evaluation informs that because of (a) entrenched ideas and habits among some of the senior academics in the country, (b) the commonly uncritical ways of teaching and working with young scientists in Mongolia, and (c) the 'threat' perceived by older academics from the well-trained project researchers, it is possible that the capacity building may not show as a broad gain for Mongolian science in the short term but should prove to be very effective in improving science standards in Mongolia over the medium and long term. The Institute of GeoEcology had promised to hire as many as ten of the project researchers at the end of the project, but this did not materialize.	
D Environmental	Rating: L

Explain:

4.8 Sources of information for the preparation of the TE review in addition to the TE (if any)

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