



Photo © EU F4 Petri Lehtonen

FOREST PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION Mongolia

#GlobalGateway #ForOurPlanet

A comprehensive approach to sustain Mongolia's forests



As part of Global Gateway, the European Union's (EU) strategy to boost sustainable links for the people and the planet, Mongolia and the European Union aim at enhancing the role of Mongolian forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, while addressing challenges related to deforestation, desertification, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Improved governance, sustainable use and management of forests
- Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains
- Reduction of deforestation and forest degradation
- Conservation and restoration of Natural Forest

Area	157 million ha
Population	3.3 million
Density	2 persons / km ²
Growth	1.6%



Forests in a nutshell

11%	Forest cover of total land (16.8 million ha)
21%	Protected forest areas (3 million ha)
1.25%	Forest loss since 1990
0.3%	Forest contribution to GDP
80,000	Forest related jobs

SOURCES: FAO FRA 2020, FAOSTAT 2020

Commitments by the Government of Mongolia

- Reducing 16.9 million tonnes CO₂ emissions from 2010
- Reducing deforestation by 31%
- Reducing forest degradation by 25%
- Increasing sustainably managed and conserved forests by 66%
- Achieving sustainable conservation of Mongolia's nature, language, territorial integrity, and culture
- Planting one billion trees through national tree planting campaigns
- 1% of GDP to combat climate change and desertification

SOURCE Mongolia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Mongolia Vision 2050, National tree planting campaigns with public-private partnerships, Presidential decree 2021.





People and forests

Mongolia's **boreal forests** (larch, birch, Siberian pine, Scots pine, aspen and spruce) dominate northern parts of the country. **The Saxaul forests**, dryland woodland ecosystems in the southern arid regions of Mongolia are not counted in the forest cover as the canopy is less than 10% and have suffered severe degradation. The **forests are owned by the government** which administers 71% of the forests, while communities manage 25%, and private entities manage the remaining 4%. In the border zones between forest and pastureland local herder families are organised into **Forest User Groups (FUGs)** to protect and manage forest areas. They are considered **key actors to generate benefits from forests**. A shift from current expansive herding practices towards sustainable management is needed to halt forestland degradation. Mongolian herders face difficulties in adapting their production systems to be more effective and value-adding, to secure their livelihoods and resilience, without overexploiting the natural resources.

Forest-based value chains in Mongolia

The contribution of forestry is only 0.3% of GDP, indicating the enormous undervaluation of the sector. However, its indirect contribution is important, as forests generate 80,000 direct and indirect jobs, especially in rural areas. At present, Mongolia is a wood-deficit country, 38% sawn timber is manufactured locally, 17% is imported from Europe and 45% from Asia. Regarding non-wood forest products, Mongolia has registered over 600 species of medicinal herbs, 1,000 species of nutritional herbs, and 200 species of herbs for food, mostly found in forests.

The Forest User Groups (FUGs)

More than 50% of FUG members are women. There is a need for further technical assistance and financing for the Mongolian Forest User Groups (FUGs) to improve the management regimes and integrate sustainable forest management into value chains, building on existing initiatives.

The partnership should support women who are actively engaged in reforestation, protection, production, and many other duties, but are less represented in decision-making.

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

