



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 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.

Area 157 million ha

Population 3.5 million

Density 2 persons / km²

Growth 5.2%



Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Strengthening of forest sector governance
- Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains
- Reduction of deforestation and forest degradation
- Conservation and restoration of natural forest
- Finance and investment

Forests in a nutshell

8.45%	Forest cover of total land (16.8 million ha)
83.5%	Protected forest areas (16 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-eq emissions

Reducing deforestation by 31%

Reducing forest degradation by 25%

Increasing sustainably managed and conserved forests from 6.5 to 9.8 million hectares

Achieving sustainable conservation of Mongolia's nature, language, territorial integrity, and culture

Planting one billion trees

Better management of protected areas' borders and connectivity



The Forest Partnership investments

- Large scale forest restoration
- Wood industry modernisation
- Public infrastructure to facilitate forestry and tourism
- Investments in the forest-value chains



People and forests

The [Forest Partnership with Mongolia](#) supports communities and the private sector in stewarding forests through a blend of conservation, sustainable management, and livelihood-based, responsible resource use. While 71% of forests are state-managed, 25% are overseen by communities through Forest User Groups (FUGs), and 4% by Professional Forest Enterprises.

Forests hold deep cultural and spiritual value and are central to national identity. A future that combines tradition with responsible economic opportunity will benefit both forest ecosystems and Mongolia's communities. The private sector will play a vital role in unlocking this potential by investing in sustainable harvesting, processing, and innovation. Strengthening domestic wood supply chains and green enterprises can drive rural development, preserve heritage, and reduce reliance on imports.

A strategy for the forest sector

Mongolia's [Boreal forests](#) (Siberian larch, Siberian, white birch, pine, Scots pine) dominate northern parts of the country with 11,3 million hectares. [The Saxaul forests](#), in the southern desert regions counts 2.6 million ha of dry woodland. The contribution of forestry is only 0.3% of GDP, indicating the enormous undervaluation of the sector. Mongolia is a wood importer country, even though forests generate 80,000 direct and indirect jobs. Transition from a strictly conservation focused management to sustainable use and economic revenue generation, could involve i.e. strengthening the institutional framework, improving the business environment, reducing imports and enhancing exports, increasing forest restoration and protected area management, addressing forest degradation and fire control, and developing sustainable tourism.



The Mongol Ger

Mongolian traditional Ger, Morin Khuur, carved saddles, and ceremonial utensils are crafted from native wood and passed down through generations. The Mongol Ger (now on the [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#)) is currently Mongolia's main wood-based export, highlighting untapped potential for value-added forest products.

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Shaping Forests,
shaping the Future



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