

ТЭРБУМ МОД

BILLION TREES



THE EXPERIENCE OF GROWING ONE MILLION TREES, THE ASPIRATION TO PLANT THE SECOND MILLION

Hero of Labour of Mongolia and Merited Cultural Worker
GALSAN TSCHINAG



REVIEW OF PREPARATION
PHASE 2021-2024



www.billiontreesmongolia.com



Turtle Rock, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Tuv aimag
Photographer: Dorjpurev.J (2021)

Editorial Team:

Enkhjargal.S

Consultant, The Asian Development Bank (ADB): Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Development Project

Ariuntsetseg.D

Consultant, The Asian Development Bank (ADB): Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Development Project

Boldbaatar.P

Director of "Billion Trees" NGO

Munkhzaya.B

Manager of "Billion Trees" NGO

Bulgan.B

Manager of "Billion Trees" NGO

Turmunkh.A

Manager of "Billion Trees" NGO



BILLION TREES

SOCIALLY ORIENTED
NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

 **7771-7707**

 **info@billiontrees.mn**

 **billiontreesmongolia.com**

Printed by
Almazpress Publishing Company, 2025

Table of Contents

- 04 FOREWORD**
- 05 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
- 06** The 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in 2026.
- 08** During the Preparation Phase for the Billion Trees National Movement, MONGOLIA'S FOREST RESOURCES EXPANDED BY 8.28% IN JUST THREE YEARS
- 10** MINING COMPANIES PLANTED 43.7 MILLION TREES
- 14** I chose to study Forestry Engineering because the field needs more professionals, while many young people are pursuing other careers.
- 16** FOREST PROJECTS
- 18** In the final stage of the "Green Belt" project, 630 hectares of forest burned by fire will be restored
- 20** Mongolia became the first Asian country to join the EU Forest Partnership Program
- 21** A pilot project to grow trees in the Gobi using minimal water has been successfully implemented
- 22** Dr. D. Serdaram, Lecturer, Associate Professor at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST): "Planting one tree is merit for this life; planting two trees is merit for the next life." mindset of "planting trees to repay one's debts" is changing
- 27** The financial institutions in banking sector financed 81 projects with 16 billion MNT
- 28** FOREST FIRES INCREASED BY 77.1%
- 29** A call to join forces with a shared vision and united commitment against climate change
- 30** Parks and Gardens Have Been Established
- 34** Experience from growing one million trees: THE ASPIRATION TO PLANT THE SECOND MILLION
- 36** Aimags and the capital city PLANTED 56 MILLION TREES
- 38** In the Gobi, 30,000 saxaul trees were planted, earning 80.5 million MNT in incentives
- 41** Mongolia is among the 10 countries most severely affected by global warming and climate change
- 42** Law enforcement agencies PLANTED TREES
- 44** EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS
- 46** The number of tree growers increased by 32%
- 47** "Bugant Nandin" LLC LED private enterprises in tree planting
- 48** Around the world, countries are facing challenges in managing water resources efficiently
- 50** A CITY HOUSEHOLD that planted 200 trees in its yard
- 52** What teachings and doctrines do religions have about tree planting?
- 54** The official launch of the construction of the New Kharkhorum City has begun
- 54** Khuvsgul Aimag began granting INCENTIVES to households that planted trees in their yards
- 55** NATIONAL FOREST AGENCY
FOREST LAND RESOURCES: Forest resources cover 19,103,221 hectares, accounting for 12.21% of the country's total territory.
- 58** "BILLION TREES" NGO

FOREWORD

The “BILLION TREES” National Movement has become widely recognised over the past three years as a major nationwide initiative aimed at restoring Mongolia’s environmental and ecological balance, mitigating climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.

This magazine aims to present the practical activities carried out during the preparation phase of 2021–2024, to share and promote best practices, and to provide a comprehensive overview of the policies and measures implemented by the government.

Starting in 2025, as the “BILLION TREES” National Movement enters a new stage of implementation, the magazine emphasises the importance of activating the participation of the government, private sector,

individuals, and international partners, and introducing exemplary experiences and model projects that can serve as benchmarks for future activities.

The magazine highlights key government organisations, aimags, local communities, businesses, individuals, and international cooperation programmes that have taken the lead in the national movement, fulfilled their commitments, and achieved tangible results.

This magazine was published at the request of the Office of the President of Mongolia, with funding from the Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Development (TA6831-MON) of the Asian Development Bank, and jointly by the project’s consultants and the “BILLION TREES” NGO.



Yargui Gorge located in Khentii Aimag.
Photograph by Gan-Ulzii.G, 2023.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2021, Mongolia addressed the launch of the “BILLION TREES” National Movement from the podium of the United Nations General Assembly, proclaiming its commitment to being an environmentally friendly nation and taking concrete action to combat climate change and desertification.

In support of this initiative, hundreds of thousands of people across all sectors, from government institutions and local communities to businesses and individuals, have made commitments, with many joining on a voluntary basis. We extend our sincere gratitude for their active participation. It is more than just a tree-planting campaign; it is an act of love and protection for nature and a meaningful investment in the future of our planet.

We have successfully completed the first phase of the national movement, which is the preparation phase, and are now moving into a new phase focused on accelerating implementation. During this period:

- A new National Forest Agency, the Government Implementation Agency of Mongolia, has been established, creating a legal framework to centralise and implement forest policy and regulation.

- The National Tree Planting Days have become a regular event, expanding into a year-round public movement, extending far beyond the traditional spring and autumn planting seasons. As a result, more than 100 million trees have been successfully planted to date.

- Professional organisations have been effectively organising and leading efforts to care for and cultivate the planted trees.

- The number of entities engaged in seedling production has grown rapidly, and the supply of seeds and saplings has increased fourfold compared to 2021.

- Furthermore, the establishment of the “Forest Genetic Resources Center”, aimed at protecting, preserving, and scientifically managing the natural quality of Mongolia’s forests, represents a tangible achievement.

In particular, we extend our gratitude to the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia, the General Authority for Border Protection, the General Executive Agency of Court Decisions, the National Police Agency, and other professional organisations for their active participation in tree planting and cultivation efforts.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the international organisations, foreign partners, Mongolians living abroad, and every environmentally conscious individual who is contributing to the green future of Mongolia.

The “BILLION TREES” national movement is just the beginning. We firmly believe that we can go beyond one billion, planting billions more trees and ensuring their enduring benefits are passed on to future generations.

H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa
President of Mongolia

The 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in 2026.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaa Khurelsukh addressed the General Debate of the 79th United Nations General Assembly

Every time I participate in the General Assembly, I take pleasure in observing the sculpture entitled “Consciousness”, created by a renowned Mongolian artist, located in the garden of the UN headquarters. This sculpture evokes a deep sense of contemplation, reminding us of our responsibilities, consciousness, and dignity before the history of mankind and future generations. This deeply meaningful work symbolises the historical moment when countries around the world adopted the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. During my visit this year, the monument stood gloomily, as if demanding answers regarding the goals and commitments we have made for future generations.

In response, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres initiated and convened the “Summit of the Future” to review our realities, invigorate the implementation of the Agenda, and intensify our efforts. I am pleased to note that Mongolia actively participated in the negotiation processes for the “Pact for the Future”, “Declaration on Future Generations” and the “Global Digital Compact”, all of which were discussed and adopted at the Summit.

Our lives are rapidly evolving and developing in an interdependent manner in this age of technological progress and digital advancement. In order to sustain peace, combat climate change, protect public health, reduce economic inequality, and establish justice, the international community must find optimal solutions and develop creative cooperation that responds to the changing dynamics of our era.

In particular, global warming and climate change have transcended natural and economic boundaries, exacerbating sensitive social issues and disputes over resources, and triggering migration that bring numerous direct and indirect dangers and risks. If this situation continues, humanity will face not just a choice between development



or stagnation, but rather a choice between existence and non-existence.

Therefore, we must carefully assess the situation and recognise the need for smart solutions based on the advancements of our era, as well as the implementation of new technologies, and share good practices while collaborating to overcome the challenges posed by climate change.

As descendants of nomads, we, Mongols, have preserved and honoured our unique cultural heritage and traditions to this day. The origin of our nomadic civilisation is, in fact, the philosophy of green development, which emphasises caring for and protecting nature while responsibly util-



ising its benefits. This indicates that we have substantial traditional wisdom and initiatives regarding the future of green development.

Thus, in line with the goals of sustainable development, Mongolia has been successfully implementing national movements and programs such as “Vision 2050”, “One Billion Trees”, “Food Security and Safety”, “Healthy Mongolia,” and “Digital Mongolia.” These initiatives represent our contributions at international and regional levels to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Mongolia, through its initiative, is preparing to ensure the implemen-

tation of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly declaring 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. We are also set to host the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar in 2026. I am confident that the international community and member states will support and collaborate with us in these efforts.

May the eternal blue sky bless us with peace across the world.



During the preparation phase for the Billion Trees National Movement,

MONGOLIA'S FOREST RESOURCES EXPANDED BY 8.28% IN JUST THREE YEARS

"Planting, protecting, and passing billions and billions of trees to future generations."

The movement to plant and nurture billions of trees is sowing the seeds of love and respect for Mother Nature in the minds of every individual. The "BILLION TREES" national movement was launched by a "Directive to the Government" decree issued by the President of Mongolia on October 4, 2021.

Honouring Mongolia's traditional values and customs of living in adaptation with nature and protecting the environment, the set forth directions are to mitigate the impacts of global climate change, safeguard and restore forest and water resources, and ensure ecological balance.

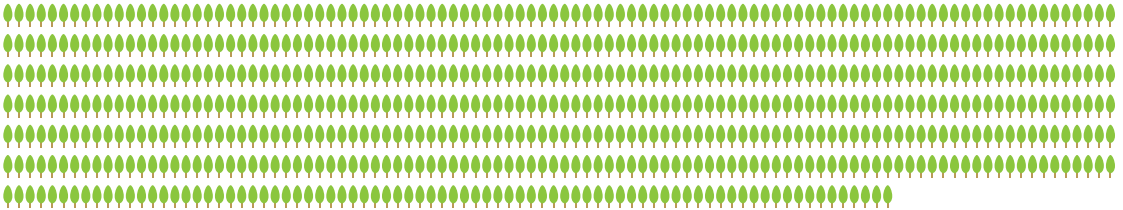
Guided by this vision, people of all ages across the nation have come together, and the commitments made under the tree-planting movement have begun to take root in reality.

By Resolution No. 01 dated March 14, 2023, of the National Climate Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, the "BILLION TREES" National Movement Strategy and Implementation Plan was approved.

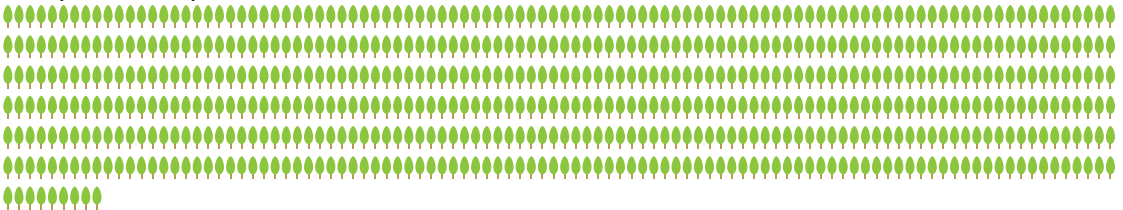
The plan outlines that the "BILLION TREES" national movement will be implemented in three phases: 2021–2024 – Preparation Phase, 2025–2027 – Intensification Phase, and 2027–2030 – Sustainability Phase.

In "Billion Trees" National Movement:

The 21 aimags and the capital city have joined to plant a total of **680.0 million** trees,



21 major mining companies and organisations, through their corporate social responsibility programs, have promised to plant **608.5 million** trees.



In addition, 17 professional associations and businesses in the banking and financial sector have joined to plant **88.6 million** trees,



and **149.8 million** trees are planned to be planted and nurtured under other initiatives.





When the “BILLION TREES” national movement was first launched, Mongolia’s forest coverage was 7.96 percent, which increased to 8.07 percent in 2022 and 8.18 percent in 2023.

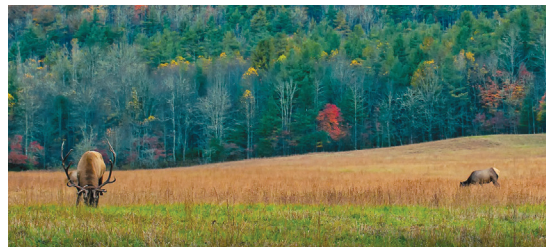
Specifically, during the period from the launch of the “BILLION TREES” national movement until January 1, 2024, the area of Mongolia’s forest resources covered by forests (national forest coverage) accounts for 8.28% of the country’s total land area.

In 2021, planted forests covered 7.9 thousand hectares, and by 2024, they had expanded to 9.4 thousand hectares. Since the launch of the “BILLION TREES” national movement, the area of planted forests has increased by 1.5 thousand hectares.

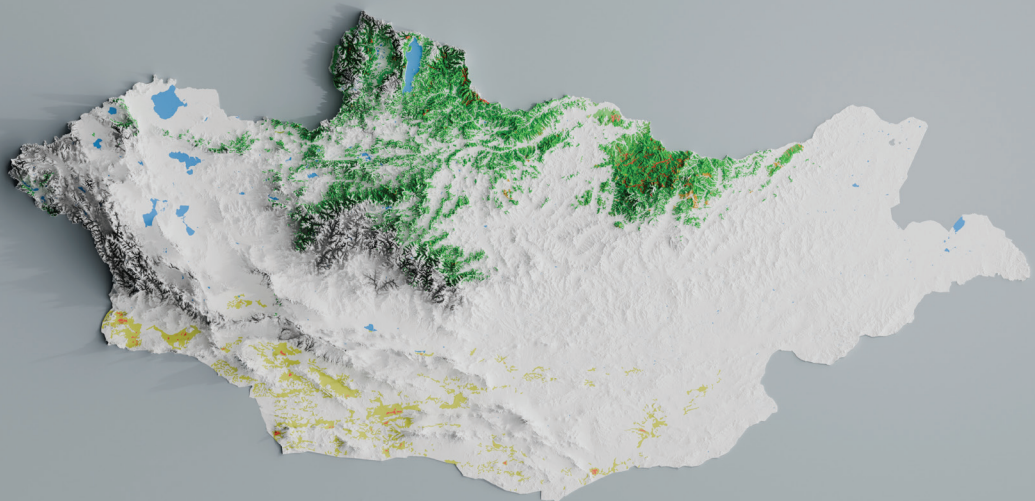
Within the framework of the “BILLION TREES” national movement, between 2021 and 2024, 114.8 million trees have been planted and nurtured, and 1.9 BILLION TREES have been protected from harmful pests to preserve their natural regeneration capacity.

According to the plan, the “BILLION TREES” national movement will be intensified during the second phase from 2025 to 2027 with the planting and nurturing of 570 million trees and will continue sustainably in the third phase from 2028 to 2030 with an additional 850 million trees to be planted.

In 2026, Mongolia proposed the International Alliance on Sustainable Rangelands and Land for the Future Initiative in Ulaanbaatar, within the framework of the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It is expected that this initiative will attract increased investment and financing directed toward more than 100 countries engaged in traditional pastoral livestock husbandry, providing tangible support for protecting and improving the health and livelihoods of around 500 million people.



FOREST DISTRIBUTION OF MONGOLIA



©themapcreators

MINING COMPANIES PLANTED 43.7 MILLION TREES



By 2030, Mongolia is implementing the national movement to plant a billion trees. In this national movement, mining companies are taking a leading role, with 21 enterprises committing to plant a total of 608.5 million trees.

.....

These enterprises, which have signed accountability agreements and made commitments, have directly planted 19.8 million trees and planted an additional 23.9 million trees in equivalent form, totalling 43.7 million trees, achieving 5.2% of their pledged target.

To intensify the “Billion Trees” National Movement, build up seedling and sapling reserves, and provide other necessary investments in equivalent form, agreements and memorandum of understanding have been signed with “Oyu Tolgoi” LLC and “Erdenes Tavantolgoi” LLC.



“Oyu Tolgoi” LLC will Leave a Legacy of One Hundred Million Trees

In November 2021, “Oyu Tolgoi” LLC, in support of the “Billion Trees” National Movement initiated by the President of Mongolia, committed to planting and growing “100 million trees”.

The 100-million-tree program is planned to be implemented in alignment with the “Billion Trees” National Movement strategy, planting 63.5 million trees directly across 22,000 hectares and fulfilling the remaining 40 million trees in equivalent form.

As of the first half of 2025, the program’s implementation has reached 20.52%, with a total of 20.5 million trees planted in locations including Turgenii Am of Bogd Mountain, Altanbulag Soum in Selenge Aimag, Umnugovi Aimag, and the National Garden Park.

In addition, as part of works to develop the forestry sector and implement equivalent forms:

- Reforestation has been carried out on 400.4 hectares in the Yalbagiin Khundii in Yeruu Soum, Selenge Aimag, and on 215.5 hectares in Shariin Gol in Khongor Soum, Darkhan-Uul Aimag;
- To support the development of the forestry sector, equipment worth 1.5 billion MNT has been handed over to the Forest Department, a Government Implementation Agency;
- Five tree nurseries, with an annual capacity to grow 250,000–500,000 seedlings and saplings, are being established in Khanbogd, Tsogt-Ovoo, Manlai, Bayan-Ovoo, and Sevrei Soums in Umnugovi Aimag.

In the area of human resources and capacity building:

- A “Forestation of the Khangai Region” study tour and training was conducted, involving over 90 forestry specialists and engineers from 46 inter-soum forestry units across 21 aimags.
- The “Vegetation of the Gobi Region” training involved over 160 environmental specialists from 4 aimags.
- Under the student scholarship program, during the 2022–2025 academic years, 10 students specialising in environmental and forestry engineering received domestic scholarships totalling 31.7 million MNT.



Companies of the “Erdenes Mongolia” Group Have Planted Seven Million Trees

For the “Erdenes Mongolia” Group, a commitment has been made to plant 291.3 million trees. Construction and development work is underway with a scientific approach, aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and reducing the negative effects on ecosystems. As of the second quarter of 2025, companies within the “Erdenes Mongolia” Group have planted nearly 7 million trees in total.

Going forward, within the framework of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, major construction and development projects have been launched to increase current resources and capacities for fulfilling the commitments made.

To expand the tree-planting capacity of committed mining companies, Erdenes Tavantolgoi LLC, representing its shareholders, plans to plant 180 million trees under the “Million Tons – Million Trees” program. The trees will be planted in forest-steppe zones, regions experiencing severe desertification, and lands affected and degraded by mining activities, covering territories in Umnugovi, Dornogovi, Dundgovi, Uvurkhangaï, Zavkhan, Khuvsgul, and Arkhangai Aimags.

According to this plan, three tree nursery agro-parks operating continuously throughout the four seasons have been established, preparing a total of 936,199 seedlings and saplings and 912 kg of seed reserves.

In the second quarter of 2025, under the framework of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, the companies and industrial enterprises of the Erdenes Mongol Group worked in coordination with the environmental plan for New Kharkhorum City and planted a total of 330,000 trees. They successfully established the “Responsible Mining – Green Zone”, achieving over 60 percent of their spring planting target.





The “Erdenet 100 Million” Program Is Under Implementation

The Erdenet Factory State-Owned Enterprise is implementing a project aimed at planting 100 million trees; securing seed, seedling, and sapling reserves; developing and introducing soil-improvement methods and technologies; and creating fertile soil resources for large-scale planting. The project also includes establishing tree nurseries capable of producing 10 million coniferous, deciduous, and fruit tree seedlings annually; organising tree-planting activities; providing environmental education to the public; conducting forestry-related training and research; and developing forestry as a tourism product.

Until 2031, 10 million trees will be planted each year in the Khangai and Gobi regions, following a well-planned approach to ensure ecological and economic efficiency.

As part of its 100 million tree commitment, the following developments are being implemented during the 2022–2025 preparation phase:

- The “Erdenet” Forest Genetic Resources Center
- The “Erdenet” Soil Innovation and Technology Center
- The “Erdenet” Tree Nursery Complex
- The construction of green infrastructure in New Kharkhorum City

During the second phase (2025–2027), which focuses on intensifying tree planting, work will be carried out through Gobi region tree nurseries, production and sales, planting, and nurturing. In the third phase (2028–2031), intensive efforts in planting, nurturing, inventory management, and monitoring will continue to achieve the targets of

- 33 million** trees in Khangai region,
- 30 million** trees in Gobi region,
- 27 million** trees in settlement areas, and
- 10 million** trees in protective belts:

I chose to study Forestry Engineering because the field needs more professionals, while many young people are pursuing other careers.



Oyu Tolgoi company launched a program to train specialists in the forestry sector and, during the 2022–2025 academic years, awarded domestic scholarships totaling 31.7 million MNT to 10 students majoring in environmental and forestry engineering. We interviewed Mr. Elbegsaikhan, J a 3rd-year student in the Forestry Engineering program at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST), who was awarded the scholarship.

First of all, congratulations on receiving the scholarship! Could you please introduce yourself?

I have just completed my 2nd year in the Forestry Engineering program at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST). Last October 2024, my professor informed me about the domestic scholarship, and I decided to apply. All of my classmates submitted essays, and I successfully passed the first stage. I then advanced to the interview stage, and I am very happy to have been selected.

What inspired you to choose Forestry Engineering as your field of study, and how did your family respond to your decision?

I actually made the decision myself. My older cousin suggested it might be better to become an agronomist. However, when

I was in 11th grade, I researched related fields and decided I wanted a profession in ecology. Since pursuing a career as an agronomist seemed somewhat challenging in Mongolia, I decided to study Forestry Engineering instead.

When I told my classmates about my choice, they teased me, saying, “Oh, are you going to be a forest guardian?” I took my university entrance exams in Biology, English, and Mathematics, and among the three universities offering this program, I chose to study at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST).

You mentioned that you chose this field after doing some research. What led you to decide on a career in a forestry-related profession instead of other fields?



It seemed like a promising field. While many young people are pursuing other professions, very few specialists are trained in forestry. Considering that Mongolia's forest resources are being depleted, desertification is increasing, ecological footprints are growing, and issues like air pollution are worsening, I felt it was important to contribute to this sector. The forestry field needs more specialists. There is high demand in the workplace, and it is truly a profession with a bright future.

Could you explain what a forestry engineer does and the kind of specialist one becomes in this field?

In general, forestry engineers work in several areas, including forest restoration and combating desertification. During the first and second years of university, we study in detail about tree species, how to grow them successfully, how to cultivate them in natural conditions, and various forestation techniques. Beyond growing trees, we also work on protecting forests from pests and other harmful factors.

Currently, forests cover only about 8% of Mongolia's total land area, and desertification is severe. When the President launched the "Billion Trees" National Movement, a target known as '9+' was set, aiming to increase forest cover to 9%. Universities, including ours, are actively training specialists to help achieve this goal.

After graduation, I plan to work for a year or two to gain practical experience in expanding the national forest cover, and then pursue a master's degree in Germany to deepen my expertise, and ultimately dedicate myself fully to advancing the forestry sector in Mongolia.

How has your perception of the profession changed since you first started as a student compared to now, after completing your second year?

The profession is quite different

from what I initially imagined. It turned out to be very different from my expectations in terms of the tasks we perform and the work sites we visit. I've learnt so much. For example, even the wood in the chairs and tables we use releases oxygen. Lacquered wood releases about 40% of its oxygen, which helps reduce dust. Just think about that! My knowledge has expanded greatly, and I now apply it in my daily life constantly considering how my actions can be more environmentally and ecologically friendly.

Next year, I will undertake an industrial internship in the urban area, where I will be involved in counting trees, shrubs, and seedlings. In Mongolia, a full inventory of all trees and shrubs is conducted once every ten years. And the best part is that it's a paid internship!

From your perspective, how should professionals contribute to reducing climate change, air pollution, and environmental degradation?

It's really upsetting to see the ecological impact increasing, land being degraded, and areas left excavated. Mining activities are on the rise and are likely to continue growing. These companies have a responsibility to ensure proper land restoration. I hope they actively involve trained professionals so that restoration is carried out effectively and responsibly."

Could you share your reasons for choosing Forestry Engineering, to help guide youths who are deciding on their field of study?

At MUST, no students enrolled in the Forestry Engineering program from 2018 until 2021, when students began entering the field again. Before 2018, the program produced a fairly large number of graduates, around 20 per year, and today, all of them are successfully working in their professions in Mongolia.

At our university, each class from

the first to fourth year has only about 10 students in Forestry Engineering Program, so class sizes are very small. In my class, there are just four students, and many others often transfer to different programs. That's why it's important to enter this program only if you truly want to and have a genuine interest. I chose it intentionally because of my own passion for the field, which makes studying it both enjoyable and motivating.

I am committed to studying diligently and pursuing a career in this field. About half of the tasks in this profession are conducted outdoors, including planting trees, conducting surveys, and studying the land, while the other half focus on analysing planted trees and shrubs through computer-based data analysis. Generally, this work typically does not involve constant interaction with large groups. If you enjoy spending time in nature, working outdoors, and planting and nurturing trees, this profession is deeply rewarding. Personally, I have loved trees since childhood, inspired by watching my grandmother plant fruit trees.

What are the advantages of receiving the scholarship?

It has helped me learn more about myself, develop teamwork skills, and build strong friendships. One major advantage of this scholarship is the opportunity to participate in the Youth Development Program. Additionally, the monthly stipend allows me to focus on my studies without worrying about earning extra income. In this field, there are also many opportunities for paid internships while studying. However, because some internships can be fairly long, it's important to plan and organise your coursework accordingly. Their duration can range from two weeks to two months, making it especially convenient to complete them during summer vacations.

FOREST PROJECTS

It highlights that numerous projects and programs on forestry and forest management, jointly implemented by international organisations and the Government of Mongolia, have been successfully carried out. Some of these projects are still ongoing.



Forest Sector Development Program

Within the framework of sustainable forest management and in alignment with the Mongolian Government's long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural goals, an assessment was carried out to evaluate the condition and functions of Mongolia's forests and the forestry sector. To support the implementation of measures aimed at achieving these objectives, recommendations for forestry sector reform were developed in 2023 through the Asian Development Bank, with grant assistance from the Government of Japan and the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific. The project was implemented by a Finnish consulting group in collaboration with the Mongolian Forest Research Association NGO.



“Establishing a High-Capacity Tree Nursery and Strengthening Capacities” Project

The Asia Forest Cooperation Organisation, in partnership with the Government Implementation Agency - National Forest Agency, is successfully implementing the project “Restoring Forests in Mongolia by Establishing a High-Capacity Tree Nursery and Strengthening Capacities to Support the “Billion Trees” National Movement (AFoCO/039/2023). As part of this project, reforestation efforts have included planting 275,000 pine trees across 110 hectares in the Ereen Mountain Range, as well as 35,000 elm trees on 14 hectares in the Shiljiriin Am area of Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar.

The economic significance of this project includes a direct annual investment of 3.3 billion MNT, which consists of:

- 700 million to 1.5 billion MNT for seedlings and saplings,
- The restoration of 7–15 million trees, equivalent to 280–600 hectares of forest,
- Generating an annual income of 7–15 billion MNT for individuals and communities.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

“Ensuring Sustainable Agricultural Management and Ecosystem Stability in Mongolia” (STREAM) Project

This project aims to implement a set of measures that integrate soil use, sustainable agriculture, and forest management to address climate challenges and food security. It is being jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the European Union. The next phase of the project, the STREAM 2 project, will continue from 2024 to 2028.



“UN-REDD+” to reduce deforestation and forest degradation

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aims to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. A key mechanism supporting this goal is the UN-REDD+ Programme, which provides policy guidance and tangible incentives to help developing countries reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and foster conservation and sustainable forest management. Since 2015, Mongolia has implemented the program over a three-year period with the support of three specialised UN agencies, developing its National Readiness Program.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Project “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management and Carbon Sink Enhancement

This project promotes ecologically sound and sustainable management and restoration activities through a multi-stakeholder approach to reduce degradation of dry steppe ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

Its main significance lies in developing a landscape-level management methodology that involves herders, forest cooperatives, and local government authorities, creating an environment for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity. The project was jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



GREEN CLIMATE FUND



“Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia” Project

This ADAPT project aims to strengthen the resilience of climate-vulnerable communities and herders who depend on climate-sensitive natural resources across four aimags of Mongolia, including Khovd, Zavkhan, Dornod, and Sukhbaatar Aimags, during the period 2024–2028. A major activity of the project is riparian reforestation along river basins. A key component of the project is riparian reforestation along major river basins. Of the 2,500 hectares planned for reforestation across the four aimags, 2,010 hectares had been restored with a total of 1.2 million trees by 2025.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation



“Eternal Mongolia” Initiative

“Eternal Mongolia” Program jointly initiated by the Government of Mongolia and The Nature Conservancy organisation will continue for the period of 2024-2039 and has an objective to strengthen the management effectiveness of national protected areas and promote community-managed nature conservation. It will effectively manage and protect forest, pasture and wildlife ecosystems over 3 million hectares of area by engaging local communities and herders.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



Korea Forest Service

“Green Belt” project

The Mongolia–Korea joint “Green Belt” project is being implemented in three phases and focuses on combating desertification, reducing dust and sandstorms, expanding urban green spaces, restoring fire-affected forests, and establishing model tree nurseries. Since 2007, Phases I and II have been successfully completed, and Phase III is currently ongoing. The project contributes to the development of Mongolia’s forest sector; mitigates desertification and sandstorms, supports the implementation of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, and strengthens the capacity of forestry professionals.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Rio Tinto



“Healthy Forest” Project

The “Healthy Forest” project, implemented jointly by Rio Tinto LLC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), aims to protect forests from harmful insects and diseases. Implemented from 2022 to 2024 with a budget of USD 4 million, the project saved 1.1 billion trees from the risk of destruction and restored a total of 300,000 hectares of forest vulnerable to pest infestation during the project period.

Using the artificial intelligence-based Earth Ranger platform, a system has been created to support real-time identification of forest pest locations and information. For this purpose, Black View 9300 Pro phones were distributed to forest units and professional organisations, enabling data processing and rapid-response planning. As a result of this work, trees that had been without leaves turned into green, healthy trees within 4–6 weeks.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM



“Ensuring Mongolia’s Ecosystem Resilience and Stability” Project

Within the framework of the Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience of Green Landscapes in Mongolia (ENSURE) project, 300,000 hectares of pastureland, 20,000 hectares of cool-temperate forest, and 25,000 hectares of larch forest have been designated for the implementation of best management practices.

The second component of the ENSURE project focuses on promoting effective, sustainable management practices for coniferous and larch forests. This includes strengthening the roles of local groups and cooperatives and enhancing the capacity of inter-soum forest units and local communities.

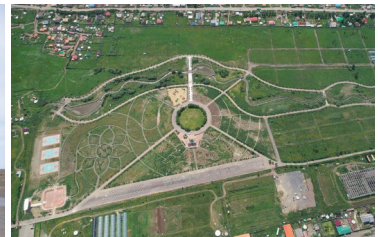
In the final stage of the “Green Belt” project, 630 hectares of forest burned by fire will be restored



The “Mongolia-Korea Joint Green Belt” is an intergovernmental project launched in 2007 under a bilateral agreement aimed at combating desertification and reducing sandstorms.

As part of the project, tree nurseries have been established to set model standards in the forestry sector.

The project’s Phases I and II have been successfully implemented, and Phase III is ongoing, focusing on contributing to the development of Mongolia’s forestry sector; reducing desertification and dust storms, supporting the implementation of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, and strengthening the capacity of forestry professionals.



Project Phase I (2007-2016)

In the desertification-prone Gobi and steppe regions, specifically in Lun Soum, Dalanzadgad Soums, and Bayanzag in Bulgan Soum, afforestation was carried out using technology adapted to Mongolia’s conditions, covering 3,000 hectares over a period of 10 years. Additionally, 45 hectares of tree nurseries were established to support efforts to reduce desertification and sand and dust storms.

Project Phase II (2017-2021)

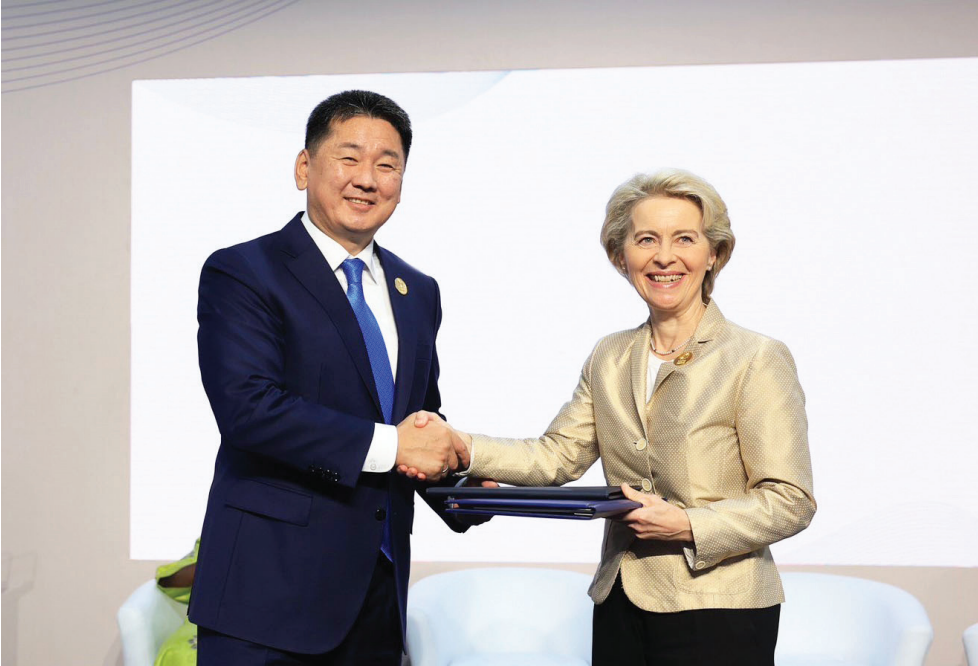
The areas afforested during Phase I were gradually handed over to the Government of Mongolia. In addition, a 40-hectare ‘Urban Forest’ was established in Dambadarjaa, Ulaanbaatar, providing green space for residents to enjoy recreation and leisure activities.



Project Phase III (2022-2026)

This phase focuses on reducing desertification and sandstorms, establishing the foundational infrastructure for forest restoration, rehabilitating fire-damaged forests, and creating a forest fire prevention system. As part of this work, restoration has begun in the degraded forests of Bugant Village, Yuruu Soum, Selenge Aimag, where a total of 630 hectares of fire-affected land has been designated for rehabilitation and secured through land-use permits.

During the project period, additional works have included installing forest fire monitoring towers equipped with cameras, establishing fire monitoring rooms, and organising volunteer forest fire brigades.



Mongolia became the first Asian country to join the EU Forest Partnership Program

Mongolia became the first country in Asia to join the European Union's Forest Partnership Initiative. In 2022, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh.U and the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the partnership.

The memorandum's main aim is to support key steps of sustainable forest management, including forest restoration, responsible use, and conservation, while also promoting the development of forest-based economic sectors and new sources of income.

The Forest Partnership is a policy-level cooperation mechanism implemented under the European Union's "Global Gateway" investment strategy, aimed at promoting sustainable development.

The implementation of the "Global Gateway" strategy and the Forest Partnership initiative is aligned with Mongolia's long-term development policy, "Vision 2050", the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the "Billion Trees" National Movement launched by the President of Mongolia.

The goal of the Forest Partnership is to protect, restore, and sustainably use Mongolia's forests, create jobs in the forestry sector, reduce illegal logging, and promote sustainable production and trade.

Within the framework of the Forest Partnership, the European Investment Bank will provide Mongolia with concessional loans of up to €100 million to support afforestation, green infrastructure, and the development of a climate-resilient forestry sector, while also exploring the possibility of implementing jointly financed projects and initiatives worth up to €200 million.

The Mongolia-European Union Forest Partnership has emerged as a new catalyst for promoting sustainable development in Mongolia. While EU member states previously implemented projects independently, the Forest Partnership now enables them to work collaboratively within a coordinated and unified strategic framework, jointly advancing forest sector reform, sustainable development, the mitigation of forest resource degradation, and the acceleration of restoration efforts.

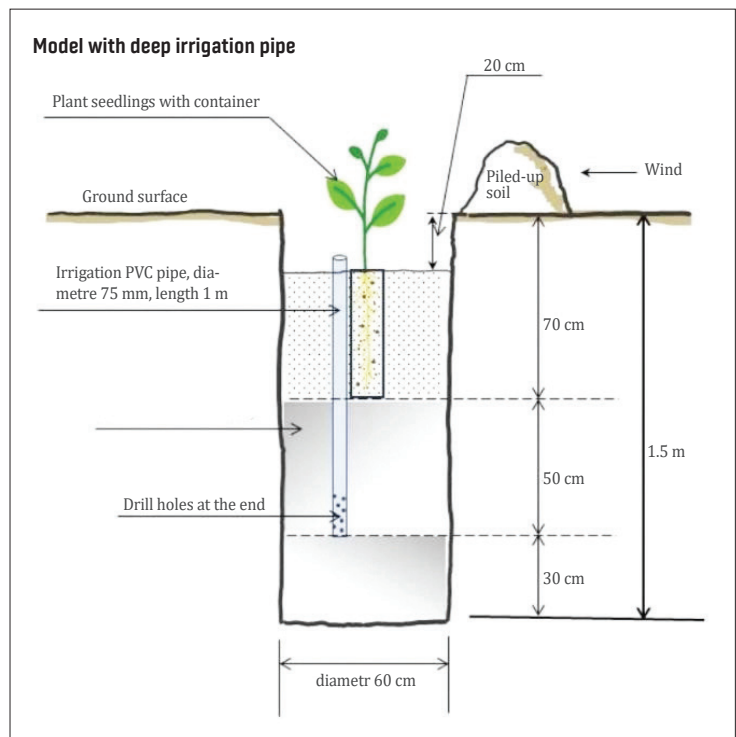


A pilot project to plant trees in the Gobi using minimal water has been successfully implemented

The long-named project, “Innovation of the Dornogovi Aimag Afforestation Pilot Project”, is a collaborative initiative by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Niigata Prefecture Foreign Science and Technology Exchange Association, a non-profit organisation. It focuses on analysing soil and water conditions in Dornogovi Aimag, planting trees with minimal irrigation, and conducting experiments to ensure their long-term sustainable growth. These experiments are carried out by Japanese experts using specialised analytical instruments and equipment.

It may be characterised as an experiment aimed at cultivating trees using minimal water in the extremely arid and challenging environment of the Gobi region.

Within the project, 500 tree pits were prepared to conduct experiments on growing seedlings and saplings. Soil analysis showed that the humus layer was very thin, while the underlying clay was extremely hard. To ensure tree survival, the project focused on helping roots penetrate beneath this compacted layer. The experiments tested several techniques, including encouraging the elongation of seedling roots, planting seedlings with air gaps, propagating long-rooted seedlings, and evaluating different seedling types such as M-Star pellet seedlings and bio-pellet seedlings.



For example, they tested a deep-pit planting method that used an irrigation pipe system to deliver a single, substantial watering, enabling the trees to grow without the need for further irrigation or maintenance.

Although the experiment has been successful, the initial costs remain relatively high because it requires digging deep (1.5 m) pits through hard clay soil, installing irrigation pipes, and providing an initial watering of 200–300 litres. Efforts are currently underway to identify ways to reduce these costs. ажиллаж байгаа аж.



Seedling tray

Dr. D. Serdaram, Lecturer, Associate Professor at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST):

“Planting one tree is merit for this life; planting two trees is merit for the next life.” mindset of “planting trees to repay one’s debts” is changing



When and how did your connection with trees begin?

Since childhood, during the socialist period, there was a large centre in Ulaanbaatar called the “Young Environmentalists’ Station”, which provided ecological and environmental education to youths. I believe students from all schools in the city had the opportunity to participate. Through my experiences there, I learnt how to plant and nurture trees, sparked my interest in Ulaanbaatar’s green spaces, and fostered a lifelong fascination with trees.

About 20 years ago, while studying in the Republic of Korea, I was an active member of a student club at Dankook University. After returning to Mongolia, my students and I founded the online community “My Club”. For the past 19 years, we have continuously organised a wide range of eco-volunteer activities, including tree-planting projects.

Over time, I have come to realise that the true purpose of our work is not merely to plant many trees but to nurture a mindset of tree-planting in the minds of young people. Today, more than 30 students from the ‘Mongeni’ complex school are receiving certificates for their participation in volunteer tree-planting activities. Since last year, these children

have been joining me in hands-on tree-related work, gaining a solid understanding of trees, nurseries, soil, and the differences between simple and challenging tasks. Through this experience, they have built friendships, supported one another, and developed a foundational sense of teamwork as well as an understanding of the realities and challenges of meaningful work.

What cultural understanding, knowledge, and mindset do Mongolians have toward trees?

As a nomadic society, Mongolians have traditionally lived in harmony with nature, leaving virtually no negative impact or trace on the environment. Because we adapted to the nature rather than altering it, we did not develop a mindset of planting vegetation or harvesting the fruits of what we had grown. Instead, nomads relied on grasses, plants, and fruits as they naturally ripened. This way of thinking allowed the environment to remain largely undisturbed for many centuries. However, over the past fifty years, human activity has not only left traces on nature but has also caused significant damage and environmental degradation. As a result, we have no historical tradition of planting trees, restoring forests to

cover mountains, or rehabilitating water systems, plants, rivers, and streams to their original state. Today, we are learning from international experience to fill this gap.

Today, it has become an essential responsibility to instil in future generations a genuine awareness and mindset of caring for the environment. We now need a way of thinking that goes beyond only protecting nature, emphasising both adaptation to and restoration of the environment.

Since there is little left to simply “protect”, our mindset must shift toward restoration and adaptation, an approach grounded in research, scientific understanding, innovation, and new ways of living that transform our social, economic, and cultural habits. The Kubuqi Desert Project in China is a clear example of this.

What is the advice or lesson you most frequently share with your students and young people?

I often tell them, “Difficult work becomes enjoyable when done together.” “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together,” and “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” These phrases serve as the guiding motto of our club. Rather than simply saying, “Planting trees is





nice, and they will grow beautifully," I remind my students that without proper care, up to 40 percent of the trees we plant may die. So I encourage my students to work together to plant the trees.

Academic learning and mastery of methods and technology are undoubtedly important. But what educational institutions prioritise in order to develop students into true intellectuals? In today's world, what qualities define an intellectual?

An intellectual should be someone who can anticipate social risks, work to prevent them, and possess the moral courage to blow the whistle when necessary. Rather than simply producing highly educated individuals with academic credentials, I hope our younger generation develops the foundation to become good human beings.

This begins in the family and continues in schools, where teachers should serve not only as instructors

but also as mentors. I try to be an ordinary, approachable friend to the students who join me in volunteer work. What many schoolchildren and university students lack today is mentorship. Even if there is no one formally trained as a mentor, they still need at least one trustworthy adult who will listen.

Many young people lack spaces where they can express themselves freely and confidently, share their opinions, or speak openly. Learning to express oneself is an essential skill, and listening silently, without judgement, is an even more important one.

When you truly listen to children, their words sometimes can be both heartbreaking and profoundly moving. Conflicts within the family often happen directly in front of them, leaving them more wounded by their home environment than by society. While we overlook these simple but crucial issues and instead focus on large projects and policies, it is truly shameful on our part.

In general, how much funding is required for tree planting? Over the 19 years that you have been planting trees, how much have you spent?

Planting trees requires significant money, resources, and time, and its true value is immeasurable. More important than the economic calculation of how much it costs to plant and grow a tree is the mindset of how much heart and dedication you put into it. You wouldn't say, "My child grew up because I spent 5 million or 500 million MNT on them," would you? Some children grow up in their own neighborhoods without such expenses, yet they still become fine human beings. They share the same air, live in the same environment, interact with one another, and influence each other. In the same way, I try to help people understand that beyond economic incentives and calculations, our mindset and attitude toward trees are essential. When the time comes, those who are willing to

invest their own resources and even their lives in caring for nature will find that nature repays them in kind. Once such a system is established, it becomes possible to achieve meaningful environmental restoration with fewer financial inputs. This is clearly demonstrated in the Kubuqi Desert Project, which I often reference as a successful example.

“Planting one tree is merit for this life; planting two trees is merit for the next life.” mindset of “planting trees to repay one’s debts” is changing

Climate change is not only a challenge for Mongolia; it has become an urgent crisis for all of humanity. Yet many of us still perceive it as something distant and abstract. Why do you think this is the case?

In 2007, friends from the Tsahim Urtuu Network translated and first shared online a digital letter titled “A Letter from 2070”. The letter imagined a world where people were allowed to drink only one cup of water per day and received their salaries not in money but in water. Many of the scenarios that once seemed unimaginable have, in less than 20 years, become reality. Today,

such content is widely shared across multiple platforms, raising awareness about the value of water and the need to protect it. Yet, as long as the danger hasn’t affected them directly, people still rarely take meaningful action. Humans, like rats, fail to adapt to environmental degradation, often do not notice the decline in their quality of life, and cannot work alone to implement practical solutions that would benefit themselves.

In Japan, people are dying from heat as temperatures reach above 40°C, but after a while, such events become just another news story that people get used to and forget. The more immediate concern for us is that many drive 20 kilometres outside Ulaanbaatar just to breathe clean air or endure six months of cold, polluted conditions. This ongoing deterioration in quality of life will soon reach us directly and confront us face-to-face.

How strongly do you believe in the future of Mongolia and the potential of its children and youth?

I strongly believe in them. More important than who they are is the fact that I have no choice but to trust

and believe in them. Over the years, I’ve planted trees with many people. Most plant a tree, take a photo, and then forget to care for it. While many treat it superficially, the children are different. I hope that even a small positive change in mindset emerges when they work together.

Our club’s motto is: “Children are the blue train, and I am its driver.” They ride the train, experiencing joy and excitement, and eventually disembark at their stop. It doesn’t matter to me how far they travel or who they become; what matters is that our train is full of passengers. This has been the path I’ve followed for 19 years, and along the way, I’ve had the privilege of working with countless children.

The “Billion Trees” National Movement is clearly making an impact on children. They are beginning to approach trees with the right mindset. Trees are no longer seen just as firewood; instead, children are developing a sense of a desire to plant at least one tree themselves.

The old mindset of “Planting one tree is merit for this life; planting two trees is merit for the next life” and the mindset of “planting trees to repay one’s debts” are changing today. However, the “Billion Trees” National Movement relies on a clear plan, structured implementation, a defined budget, and detailed rules and regulations outlined in its feasibility study, all of which play a crucial role. Foreign partner organisations, individuals, and countries collaborate according to this plan.

In China, trees are being planted using artificial intelligence-powered robots. Nearby, the know-how and experience of creating forested groves in desert areas have been applied to restore the Kubuqi Desert, increasing biodiversity, implementing systematic solutions, and developing a business model that has become a UN benchmark program. Our country has the opportunity to adopt this approach directly.





Student of Grade 11 V, Mongeni Complex School
Tamir.Ts

My teacher was like a friend to us, treating everyone equally and without discrimination, which left a strong impression on me. Even when we visited

the book fair, he bought us beautiful books as gifts and shared whatever he had. I've carried these qualities with me, especially as I plan to study to become a digital journalist. As long as there are people and politics, a journalist must serve as the "voice of the people". I want to work to amplify the voices of undervalued communities and individuals in society. Participating in volunteer work has strengthened my motivation to pursue this dream.

While planting trees, I felt energised by the thought that I was giving back to nature what I had taken from it. This mindset has inspired me to continue planting and caring for trees throughout my life.



Student of Grade 12 G, Mongeni Complex School
Misheel.N

Because of our own actions and the waste we produce, issues such as climate change and the thinning of the ozone layer are emerging. All of this

is happening because we have treated nature harshly, carelessly, and irresponsibly. That is why everyone needs to plant trees. If we want Ulaanbaatar to be more vibrant, brighter, richer in oxygen, and a place where people are less stressed and full of positive energy, we need to plant more trees. I am very grateful that by participating in My Club's volunteer work, I've begun to understand trees more deeply and have started planting them properly. Trees, like us, are living beings. Planting them is not just about putting roots into the ground. You have to plant them wholeheartedly. If you don't study everything, such as what kind of soil they need, what kind of hole to dig, and so on, the tree will not grow properly.

How we plant trees matters. I believe that when we plant trees together as a community, the environment becomes warmer and more pleasant, and the trees are more likely to grow well.



Student of Grade 11 V, Mongeni Complex School, Bayangol District
Altanbagana.S

It's wonderful to do volunteer work together as a team and help others. And it feels even better when you are reward-

ed with something that benefits your own future. Thinking back to when I knew nothing about planting trees, it amazes me how much I've learnt. I've learnt to love and care for trees and plants. Doing it together with my friends made the experience fun and interesting. It feels great to think that I'm planting the air I will breathe and that in the future, my children and grandchildren will breathe thanks to the trees I plant today.



Student of the 'Intract' Club at the Mongeni Complex School
Tsenguun.O

Since April, members of our club have been participating every week in continuous volunteer tree-planting activities. Preparing the soil together

and planting trees as a group has been a very memorable experience. I'm glad that I now have detailed knowledge about how to plant trees for the next time. We also visited the "Khuurkhun Zulzaga" Center to help animals, cleaned the forest, and took part in many environmental activities. My mother always tells me to choose a career that is friendly to nature, and I keep her words in mind.



Student of Grade 10 D, Mongeni Complex School
Erdenebold.B

What I loved most about planting trees was that we weren't doing it just to earn a certificate, and we were doing something good for people

and for nature, and that felt truly meaningful. I've also become more open and expressive. When I was younger, I never paid attention to tree planting, but now I think about it much more consciously. Even one person planting a tree is something to be proud of.

The financial institutions in banking sector financed 81 projects with 16 billion MNT



Banks, financial institutions, professional associations, and several businesses have joined the “Billion Trees” National Movement and have committed to planting and growing 88 million trees by 2030.

In addition, member organisations of the Mongolian Bankers Association have agreed to contribute no less than two billion MNT annually to the “Billion Trees” Foundation. The banking sector also plans to increase green loans to 10 percent by 2030, providing a total of 5.2 trillion MNT in financing.

The “Billion Trees” Foundation conducted its project selection for 2023, 2024, and 2025 in a transparent, open, and independent manner following international funding principles. With the support of a team of more than 20 sector experts, projects were selected through a seven-stage evaluation process.

As a result, the “Billion Trees” Foundation, established jointly by the Mongolian Bankers Association, commercial banks, and the Bank of Mongolia, provided non-refundable financing to 34 projects in 2023 and 47 projects in 2024, totalling 81 projects. Through these projects, more than 3 million trees were planted across 1,089 hectares, and over 72 jobs were created.

A total of 16 billion MNT in funding has been provided to these projects over the past three years. In 2025, the fund is selecting new projects for financing and is expanding its scope by implementing large-scale reforestation projects. By doing so, it aims to lead the private sector in contributing to sustainable development within Mongolia’s forestry sector.

FOREST FIRES INCREASED BY 77.1%



55.6% of the country's territory has been affected by forest and steppe fires

As of July 2, 2025, a total of 149 forest and steppe fires have been recorded nationwide. Compared to the same period last year, forest fires have increased by 77.1%, and steppe fires have increased by 16.9%.

According to preliminary estimates, the recent fires have affected 663,317 hectares of land, five houses, 49 gers, five vehicles, seven motorcycles, 125 live-stock fences, 5,937 small livestock, 470 large live-stock, 7,980 bales of hay, and 80 sacks of feed, causing damages amounting to 6 billion MNT.

With support from the Asian Development Bank and funding from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, the National Emergency Management Agency has implemented the technical assistance project “Strengthening Capacity for Disaster Risk Assessment, Planning, and Risk Transfer.” Within this project, disaster risk assessments were conducted for the 10 most common types of disasters in Mongolia, and approximately 1,500 related maps were developed.

A mapping of the “Forest and Steppe Fire Risk Assessment of Mongolia” developed within the framework of the project has been produced.

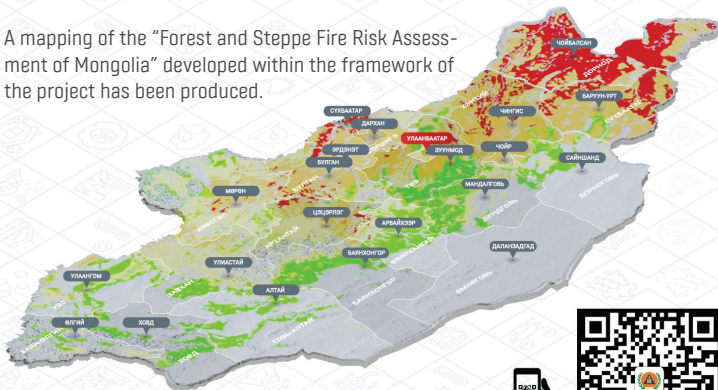
As part of the project, a “Forest and Steppe Fire Risk Assessment of Mongolia” map was produced.

For Mongolia, forest fires are the main factor that determines the spatial and temporal dynamics of forest ecosystems. Research shows that 55.6% of the country's territory is affected by forest and steppe fires, and each year 80–100 such fires occur, most frequently between March and June.

Steppe fires cause significant economic and ecological damage to rangelands. For example, they burn decayed grasses, plants, and shrubs, reducing soil quality, destroying organic matter, and leading to soil erosion. The causes of steppe fires are classified into three categories: natural causes, intentional human actions, and accidental or careless human activities.

About 70 percent of all recorded forest and steppe fires are caused by human negligence and human error. The devastation from forest fires can last for decades. Firefighters and emergency responders risk their lives to extinguish the raging flames. Although it is their duty, what truly stands out is their deep respect for nature and their

courage to act for the sake of others. Firefighting is not a responsibility that rests solely on firefighters and officials; as citizens of this country, we must all act with greater responsibility and awareness.



Please scan the QR code



Once a fire breaks out, it becomes difficult to control, but preventing it is entirely in our hands.



A call to join forces with a shared vision and united commitment against climate change

Under the patronage of President Khurelsukh.U, the international forum “Sustainability Dialogue 2025 – Climate Action: Billion Trees” was hosted at the State Palace in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. President of Mongolia Khurelsukh.U delivered the opening remarks. He emphasised that addressing urgent environmental challenges such as climate change, desertification, land degradation, and pollution requires strong cooperation among countries and regions, mutual understanding, unified positions, and a collective voice. He reaffirmed Mongolia’s commitment to open, mutually beneficial, and effective collaboration with nations, international organisations, donors, and development partners worldwide. The President also called for joint efforts guided by a shared purpose and unified vision to protect Mother

Earth and secure a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come.

8th United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the “Billion Trees” initiative, calling it a concrete contribution toward meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C. “The implementation of climate action and sustainable development has entered a new stage,” he said. “Now is the time for unity, and I urge everyone to work together like brothers and sisters.

He emphasised that in this endeavour, it is essential to advance new research, innovations, creative solutions, and policy partnerships, to engage all stakeholders, and to maintain consistency and perseverance.

2025.06.06



Parks and Gardens Have Been Established



As a result of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, parks, groves, and green spaces in new neighbourhoods and residential areas are expanding and being newly established in the capital and major settlements. This not only enhances the urban landscape but also fosters a new culture in citizens’ attitudes toward nature.

Since the launch of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, between 2021 and 2024, parks have been established over an area of 2,006.35 hectares across 28 soums in 18 aimags and 6 districts of Ulaanbaatar.

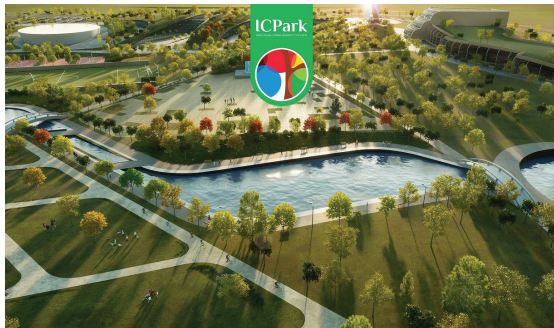
In these parks, 655,438 trees and shrubs have been planted, 11.5 hectares have been grassed, and flower beds covering 64,056 m² with 3,202,800 flowering plants have been established. A total of 26,600 people and around 1,000 enterprises participated in these activities.

In recent years, tree-planting activities for weddings, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, and commemorative events have become increasingly popular, and planting trees is gradually being recognised as a way to express love, respect, and responsibility.

Thus, tree planting is no longer limited to “National Tree Planting Day”. The ability to plant seedlings grown in capsules at any time of the year has made it much easier to integrate tree planting into daily life.

Even those without private land can contribute to a greener future: individuals, families, teams, and organisations can visit parks in the capital, aimags, districts, and soums to plant and care for trees, or place remote orders to have trees planted on their behalf while monitoring their growth and maintenance – a commendable initiative.

Some of these parks are highlighted below. Each operates according to its own specific conditions and regulations.



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PARK

It is designed to promote Mongolia's history and culture globally, create a destination for both domestic and international tourists, and offer a comfortable recreational environment. The 35-hectare area will feature green technology solutions for leisure, education, free-time activities, and commercial use.

An international design competition with a total prize fund of 55 million MNT was announced to select the most suitable architectural and spatial planning solution for the park. A total of 184 participants, both domestic and international, took part in the competition.

The national "Seedling and Sapling Exhibition and Fair" is successfully held each year as a tradition, organised by the United Association of Professional Mongolian Tree Nurseries and Landscaping Organisations, with participation from more than 40 organisations.

A total of 512 individuals and enterprises have voluntarily planted trees in park areas, recognising a strong sense of social responsibility.

Project initiator: **Ikh Uilsiin Ereld Group LLC**
 Project implementer: **Tuurain Tuvurгуun LLC**

NEW NALAIKH PARK

Shine-Nalaikh Park covers a total area of 68 hectares, with 58,154 trees and shrubs planted according to standard across 28.5 hectares. In 60 percent of the park's total area, an additional 60,000-70,000 trees and shrubs are being planted to expand the green space through the participation, support, and resources of district enterprises and local residents.

As part of the "Billion Trees" National Movement, the green area expanded to 35.4 hectares by 2025. In the public spaces of Nalaikh District, 97,817 trees, shrubs, and planted lawns are being maintained, increasing per capita green space to 9.02 m², a level comparable to that of some global cities, and achieving a 97.5 percent survival rate for trees and shrubs.



You can connect through the Facebook:
"Цэцэрлэгжүүлэлтийн албаны албан ёсны хуудас"
(Official Page of the Landscaping Department) to plant trees in the park.



“BAYANGOL PARK” Local Government -Owned State Enterprises

From 2021 to the spring of 2025, the “BAYANGOL PARK” LGOSE has planted and maintained a total of 31,674 trees and shrubs from 15 different species as part of the “Billion Trees” National Movement. Through regular care and watering, the park is creating a comfortable, healthy, and pleasant environment for people to enjoy during their leisure time.

The park also offers ecological education for students, operates vegetable greenhouses, and cultivates trees, shrubs, and lawns suited to Mongolia’s climate and environment with a dedicated team of 41 staff members.

You can connect through the Facebook page: **“Баянгол цэцэрлэгт хүрээлэн” (Bayangol Park) to plant trees in the park.**



“INCHEON DREAM GROVE” PARK

This park was established under a memorandum of understanding between Ulaanbaatar City and Incheon City, South Korea, with the goals of combating land degradation, creating a green belt to prevent desertification, and providing a pleasant space for public leisure and recreation. For eight consecutive years, the project has been successfully implementing the afforestation of a 100-hectare area formerly an old landfill known as “Garbage Area” in the Jargalant settlement of Sukhbaatar District as part of a ten-year plan.

Since joining the “Billion Trees” National Movement in 2022, Incheon Dream Grove has successfully afforested 40 hectares. Each spring and autumn, more than 2,000 enterprises and individuals participate in public tree-planting events, contributing over 12,000 newly planted trees. The park also offers citizens and organisations the opportunity to create dedicated groves and plant trees in their name.

Project implementer: **Nuri LLC**
 Executive director, consulting agronomist: **Lkhagvajav.Kh**



TREE CHUKA'S "THE WORLD GARDEN MONGOLIA"

Erdenechuluun.D began planting trees in memory of his mother and is introducing Germany's "tree adoption" model in Mongolia. Under this approach, each tree is planted either by the adopter themselves or by paying a small fee for it to be planted and cared for on their behalf.

He has lived and worked in Germany for more than 20 years, returning to Ulaanbaatar every summer to carry out afforestation activities on the slopes of Bayanzurkh Mountain and in areas with ageing trees along the Tuul River.

Additionally, he co-published the Mongolian edition of "The Secret Life of Trees" book and plans to translate and screen documentary films about forests, establish a children's micro-library, and pursue other initiatives aimed at fostering a culture and mindset of tree planting among people, especially children.

You can connect through the Facebook page: facebook.com/dulamjaverdenechuluun if you collaborate.



PARK AND TREE NURSERY CENTER IN TURGEN RIVER

Located within the Armed Forces 326th unit in Turgan River, Olziit Khoroolol of the 14th Khoroo, Khan-Uul District, and the park cultivates 14 species of deciduous trees and 3 species of conifers across an 8-hectare area. Since the launch of the "Billion Trees" National Movement, more than 100,000 trees have been planted here. In the spring

2025 planting season alone, an additional 37,155 trees were planted.

Individuals and enterprises can participate in tree planting in this park; currently, only ornamental trees are being planted.



Experience from growing one million trees: THE ASPIRATION TO PLANT THE SECOND MILLION



Galsan Tschinag an exemplar for us Mongolians who craft with words and cultivate with seeds, enriching both mind and forest, has joined our magazine

My experience planting trees in our summer yard has shown me that planting for even a single tree, never mind a million, requires a great deal of work, dedication, and time. Mongolia has committed to the “Billion Trees” National Movement. It is truly inspiring and a source of pride that one of us, Galsan Tschinag, has successfully planted one million trees and is now sharing his story with our magazine. We are delighted to bring our readers the knowledge, perseverance, expertise, passion, and purpose behind his tree-planting journey, as recounted by this remarkable man’s son, Galtaikhuu.

Planting Trees is a Legacy for Future Generations

My father, Galsan Tschinag, set a goal in 2009 to plant one million trees using the proceeds from the sale of his book. While studying and travelling in Germany, he was inspired by the country’s strong tree-planting culture, which sparked his desire to green Mongolia’s dry and desertified lands. For my father, planting trees was a form of devotion, a good deed for the Earth, and a legacy for future generations. He called the trees we planted together his “monument”, emphasising that rather than leaving behind stone statues, he valued passing on long-living trees as a heritage for those who come after us. He was a man deeply in love with Mother Earth, always inspiring others to plant trees as well. His goal of donating and planting one MILLION TREES was achieved in the autumn of 2022, and he had already begun working toward planting the next million.

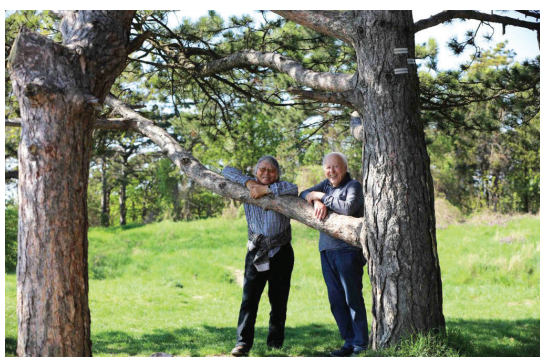


Establishment of the “Galsan Tschinag” Tree Donation Foundation

I, Galtaikhuu, together with my father, established the “Galsan Tschinag” Foundation in 2007 and, since 2009, have been implementing tree planting and cultivation in phases. The fund supports individuals, organisations, and groups interested in planting trees by preparing and donating seedlings and saplings.

The Foundation’s primary financing comes from the proceeds of the 41 books authored by my father. In 2009, revenue from the sale of 20,000 copies provided the first major investment. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of European readers and the unwavering assistance of friends in Germany and Switzerland.

Under the ONE MILLION TREES initiative, the “Galsan Tschinag” Foundation has donated seedlings to numerous schools, kindergartens, maternity hospitals, public spaces, and private individuals across Ulaanbaatar. Notably, the fund contributed 16,000 trees to support the establishment of Ulaanbaatar’s National Parks.



If planted from seed, every tree will grow successfully

A native tree refers to one grown from seed. In other words, it is not a sapling raised somewhere else. The key know-how behind the Galsan Tschinag Foundation’s success in growing and sustaining one million trees is that every single one was cultivated from seed. Instead of bringing trees from the mountains and transplanting them, true tree cultivation means using seedlings and saplings grown directly from seed.

The survival of a tree is largely determined by this very beginning. There are three essential conditions to follow when planting a tree:

A fence to prevent livestock from entering and protection for the trees.

A water source, such as a well or river, for irrigation.

Caretakers or manpower to care for the trees.

The Caragana tree, or Siberian peashrub (*Caragana arborescens*), is believed to draw water well and protect against gossip, misfortune, and illness. Following Mongolian tradition, my father always recommends planting Caragana along every yard and fence.



If One Person Can Plant a Million Trees, then a Thousand People Can Plant BILLION TREES

The native trees my father planted and donated have taken root and now thrive across 17 aimags throughout Mongolia. These one million trees continue to grow and multiply each day. In acknowledgement of his remarkable dedication and contributions, the Mongolian government awarded him the Hero of Labour State Prize in 2023.

For my father, the concept of planting trees has long grown beyond the simple act of planting; it has evolved into what he describes as a “cultural and mindset movement”. As he often says, “If one person can plant a million trees, then a thousand people can plant a billion trees.” To me, his vision shows that the “Billion Trees” National Movement can truly achieve its goal.

Every planted tree requires proper care, protective fencing, and an irrigation system. My father closely tended each small seedling until it grew into a mature tree. He emphasised that using local native seeds and engaging public support were key factors in successfully growing one million trees.

Mongolia’s harsh, dry climate, the risk of livestock grazing on young trees, and the scarcity of water are among the biggest challenges to tree planting. Yet my father has demonstrated through the green legacy he has created that “a determined person does not complain about the cold being too cold or the heat being too hot.” I am proud of him for proving this through his work.

Aimags and the capital city

PLANTED 56 MILLION TREES

A total of 21 aimags and the capital city have joined the “Billion Trees” National Movement, pledging to plant and grow 680 million trees

As of the first half of 2025, Ulaanbaatar and the aimags (provinces) have planted 56 million trees, achieving 11.45 percent of the overall target. Among them, Selenge Aimag exceeded its commitment by planting 23.9 million trees, while Tuv Aimag planted 4 million, Orkhon Aimag 3.6 million, and Khentii Aimag 2.1 million trees, leading the other regions.



SELENGE AIMAG leads in fulfilling its Billion Trees Commitment

The people of Selenge Aimag welcomed the “Billion Trees” National Movement as an opportunity. They already had extensive experience in afforesting the Tuji Pine forests, giving them a strong foundation for large-scale afforestation efforts. In 2022, Mongolia held a national reserve of 9.2 million seedlings and saplings, of which Selenge Aimag alone supplied 8 million.

One of the aimag’s first major steps was to secure a resolution from soum and inter-soum Forest Units and soum governors to designate areas for reforestation, forest belts, and willow planting for the years 2022–2030. A total of 16.4 billion MNT was allocated for afforestation and forest belt establishment, and with unprecedented financial resources in the forestry sector, 23.9 million trees have been planted since the start of the national movement. This achievement made Selenge the first aimag to fulfil its commitment during the preparatory phase.



TUV AIMAG achieved 20 percent of its 20 Million Tree Pledge, ranking second nationally.

Under the “Billion Trees” National Movement, Tuv Aimag committed to planting 20 million trees. By the first half of 2025, it had already planted 4 million, placing it ahead of all other aimags in progress.

According to 2025 records, 28 tree-nursery enterprises across 13 soums produced and cultivated 75.8 million seedlings, saplings, and cuttings using both seeds and branch cuttings.

At Tuv Aimag’s annual exhibitions, local tree-nursery enterprises and cooperatives actively participate, presenting seedlings grown in local soil, adapted to the region’s climate, and compliant with national standards.

Additionally, 76 instructor trainers were prepared, and through 53 training and outreach sessions, 1,936 people were taught the knowledge and skills necessary for tree planting and cultivation.



UMNUGOVI AIMAG Leading in Tree-Planting Incentives and Effectively Combating Sand and Dust Storms

Since 2005, Umnugovi Aimag has offered monetary incentives to households that plant trees in their yards. The initiative aims to slow desertification, reduce extreme heat, improve local living conditions, and ensure the participation of every local person in creating a comfortable living environment.

Following the launch of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, the aimag strengthened its efforts and revised its incentive procedures. Under the updated regulation, households become eligible for incentives by planting at least nine trees, while businesses must plant 90 or more. Each tree is valued at 3,000 MNT in the first year, 4,500 MNT in the second, and 6,000 MNT in the third, totalling 13,500 MNT per tree over three years. Participants also receive continuous guidance and technical advice on tree planting and care.

Between 2021 and 2024, a total of 511 households and businesses planted 196,250 trees, receiving 624.1 million MNT in incentives from the local budget. Gurvantes Soum planted the highest number of trees.

As part of the incentive program, Gurvantes Soum resident Munkhsaikhan Tumurbaatar planted 7,963 saxaul

trees in 2023 and another 28,796 in 2024, earning recognition as the top tree-planter. He received a monetary reward of 80.5 million MNT.

Households that have planted trees in their yards must submit a request to join the incentive program to their bag or khoroo. Afterwards, a working group consisting of representatives from the Aimag Environment Department, the inter-soum forestry unit, the soum Governor’s Office, and citizen representatives visits the site to count the trees planted by the individual or organisation and formally verify them through an inspection report.

Umnugovi Aimag has pledged to plant 70 million trees, and as of 2025, it has planted a total of 1.2 million, achieving 2.7 percent of the target. The tree-planting incentives are further accelerating progress, and we hope the aimag will lead in fulfilment in the coming years.



Khentii Aimag is implementing a 30 Million Trees Program

Forests cover 21.7 percent of Khentii Aimag’s territory, placing it fourth nationwide in forest area after Khuvsgul, Bulgan, and Selenge.

Between 2022 and 2024, under the “30 Million Trees” program, Khentii Aimag established tree nurseries, procured essential equipment, and developed wells and irrigation systems. With adequate seed reserves secured, the aimag produced 10.4 million seedlings.

Under the “Billion Trees” National Movement, the aimag has expanded its total forest area by 0.05 percent and increased public green spaces by 135 hectares. As of 2025, Khentii Aimag has planted a total of 2.1 million trees through green space development, protective forest belts, and reforestation efforts.

In the Gobi, 30,000 saxaul trees were planted, earning 80.5 million MNT in incentives

Gurvantes Soum of Umnugovi Aimag has planted the highest number of trees, leading the aimag in tree-planting. This achievement is undoubtedly the result of the hard work and dedication of this soum's people. The fact that each tree must be grown, counted annually, and rewarded with incentives based on the number of healthy trees is clear evidence that the incentive program is being implemented effectively.

Munkhsaikhan Tumurbaatar, a resident of Gurvantes Soum, was recognised as the top tree planter after planting 7,963 saxaul trees in 2023 and 28,796 in 2024. He received a total monetary reward of 80.5 million MNT.



First of all, could you introduce yourself to our readers?

I am a native resident of Gurvantes Soum in Umnugovi Aimag, where I live happily with my wife, Otgonzul N., and our four children. From 2010 to 2019, we herded livestock while also running various private businesses. Our eldest child eventually left for university. Then, in 2019, I started planting trees according to personal interest. Together with my siblings, relatives, and friends, we began cultivating saxaul trees in Gurvantes Soum and using the seedlings we grew for reforestation. Since then, we have planted more than 30,000 saxaul trees for reforestation.

Where and what types of trees are you planting?

In 2022, we established a company focused on tree cultivation and planting, and we obtained a special licence for reforestation. Since then, we have participated in both local and national tenders and were selected to implement two saxaul-planting projects in the Gobi region. Of the three projects we were awarded, two have already been completed independently, and we are currently implementing the third. We also hire additional daily workers when necessary.

With local government funding, we planted 15,000 saxaul trees. Last year, supported by the state budget, we planted 18,000 saxaul trees and 22,000 other species, such as elm, in Bulgan Soum. In Gurvantes Soum, we planted an additional 16,000 saxaul trees.

We also have 36,000 saxaul trees registered under the incentive program, now entering their third year. In addition, we sell and supply saxaul seedlings to various places. Altogether, we have planted around 100,000 trees, mostly saxaul.



Your aimag started providing tree-planting incentives quite early. How are these incentives calculated and provided?"

Our aimag leads the country in tree planting and cultivated forests. We are known as an aimag that plants a lot of trees. International projects such as the "Green Belt" have also been successfully implemented here. I recall that the incentive system was first approved and introduced by the Community Meeting in 2004. At that time, 4,500 MNT per tree was provided over a three-year period. In 2023, the regulation was revised, and the incentive was increased to 13,500 MNT per tree, distributed over three years.

Do you personally take care of the trees?

Yes. For the trees planted with state funding, I personally set up the fencing and handle all watering and maintenance. From spring to autumn, we hire additional workers to help transport and water the trees. Rain is extremely rare here, and because the climate is so dry, we rely entirely on transported water for irrigation. There is very little opportunity to collect water naturally.

For the trees registered under the incentive program, I cover all costs and maintenance myself using my own funds.

How much have you spent on planting and growing trees? Have you ever calculated the total?"

I haven't calculated the costs in detail. For state-funded projects, the expenses are clearly outlined, but I haven't kept precise records of what I've spent planting trees on my own land. What I can say is that tree planting requires significant financial resources. Solving the issue of water and wells is the most important part. We transport water by truck for irrigation. During the first two years, when we didn't have a well, we had to haul water from 4 kilometres away. Since our aimag supports people who plant trees, they funded the construction of a well on our land using the local budget, and we are very grateful for that. We also have a 5 tonne water truck.

You were honoured as the individual who received the highest incentive. Growing trees in the Gobi must be incredibly challenging, isn't it?

In the first year, I received 30 million MNT in incentives, and in the second year of 2024, that amount increased to 80.5 million MNT. This year, 28,000 of my trees have already been counted for the incentive program. My goal is to have around 30,000 trees counted annually, and

hopefully even more in the future. Earning a high incentive has had a positive ripple effect on those around me. For instance, my friend Davaakhuu S bought 20 hectares of land and had nearly 20,000 trees counted this year, placing him second in the aimag. Likewise, more and more people are now planting trees for mining companies as well.

Overall, this work demands a great deal of patience. In the early days, when we had no prior experience and were planting trees purely on our own initiative with help from relatives and friends, it required tremendous perseverance and significant financial investment. But over time, we've learnt the process and gained confidence. Now that tree planting is directly tied to my livelihood, I approach the work with total commitment, striving to ensure that every seed I put into the ground grows into a tree.

Do you receive the incentives monthly? And is it possible to make a living from these tree-planting incentives?

It's actually been very good. Job opportunities in rural areas are limited, so being able to create my own work and earn incentives comparable to a salary is a huge advantage. Just as herders make their living from livestock, it's entirely possible to



make a living by planting and caring for trees. Each year, local authorities inspect and count the trees I've planted. The incentive is only granted after they verify exactly how many are healthy and alive. If any die, I'm required to replace them. That means consistent irrigation, maintenance, and year-round care are essential. This work not only provides income for my family but also demands a strong sense of responsibility.

Just because the trees were counted last year doesn't mean you can ignore them this year. They must be counted every year. The autumn count is usually done around September and October. In spring, we sign a contract with the Environment Department of aimag and soum stating how many trees we have had counted and how many we are requesting incentives for.

Under the contract, specialists from the Environment Department of Aimag visit to inspect and count the trees, confirming how many are

healthy and alive. Only after this verification is the incentive paid. Through it all, my wife has been my strongest partner. For the past three years, I've devoted myself entirely to tree planting. I haven't taken on any other work. During the winter, starting in November, I return to our home in the soum center. I manage a 3,400 m² nursery. There, I cultivate seeds and grow the seedlings that will later be planted. Reforestation doesn't happen overnight; each seed requires one to two years of care before it's ready for planting. Every year, I prepare between 30,000 and 40,000 seedlings.

How do you choose the land for planting trees?

In the beginning, I didn't know much about any of this. So I simply planted trees in areas with the most frequent dust storms to reduce sand movement. From April to July, the climate here is especially harsh, windy, and dusty almost every day.

We have now fenced a total of 118 hectares, and we are actively planting trees on about 30 hectares of that area. Our long-term goal is to plant more than 160,000 trees. In the Gobi, the most resilient species is the saxaul. Once it's planted for reforestation, it almost never dies. However, reaching that stage takes about three years. During this period, we water each tree thoroughly three times a year. Thanks to this care, the survival rate is remarkably high, around 90 percent.

What are your future goals and dreams?

I'm determined to eventually fill the entire fenced area. It will take quite a long time, though. Each year, I prepare 30,000–40,000 seedlings. After planting them for reforestation, about half typically do not survive, so I carry out replanting to replace the losses. Since 2021, I have been continuously planting 30,000 saxaul trees, and at this pace, it will take around ten years to complete the area. The saxaul trees have grown well, and compared to before, they now provide protection against sand and dust storms. Under their shelter, I'm planning to plant leafy trees such as elm. Growing vegetables is difficult because the sandstorms bury them, making it unsuitable. Fruit trees, however, might grow here, and I'm still experimenting. Overall, more than 80 percent of the trees I've planted are alive and growing successfully.

After covering your expenses, are you able to earn a profit from the incentives?

I haven't calculated it down to the exact amount. It is not just me; several households from our extended family work together. We take turns caring for the trees, and when the incentive comes in, we deduct the expenses and divide the remainder among ourselves. It works out well for us. The unique part is that we receive our salary only once a year, with the full amount at the end of December (he laughs).

"Desertification in Mongolia" Photo Contest
Photographer: N. Batsukh, 2021



More than 40 percent of the Earth's land area is degraded. Therefore, in order to combat desertification and slow its progress, the countries of the world adopted the "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Seriously Affected by Desertification" in 1994, and 195 countries joined it. Our country was one of the first 50 countries to ratify the Convention to Combat Desertification in 1996.

Mongolia is among the 10 countries most severely affected by global warming and climate change

Desertification in Mongolia is progressing rapidly, and desert zones continue to expand. 76% of the total area of Mongolia is affected by moderate to severe desertification. It is believed that 87 percent of it is due to human activities, while 13 percent is related to climate change and natural phenomena. Because of its geographical location and harsh continental climate, Mongolia is among the ten countries most severely affected by global warming and climate change.

According to 80 years of climate observations, Mongolia's average annual air temperature has increased by 2.25°C, while annual precipitation has decreased by 8 percent.

Illegal logging, heavy industry, land stripping, sand and gravel extraction, irresponsible mining, pasture degradation, the spread of off-road tracks, and soil pollution are among the main drivers of land degradation and desertification.

In recent years, Mongolia has been expanding its cooperation with international organisations to combat desertification. In November 2022, Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Union on sustainable forest management, becoming the first Asian nation to join the EU Forest Partnership Program.

Mongolia is also preparing to host the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2026. Hosting this conference is seen as an important opportunity for Mongolia to raise its voice globally on desertification issues, to enhance international cooperation in combating desertification, and to attract investments to this sector.

The "BILLION TREES" national movement initiated by the President of Mongolia, Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, is a major national effort to combat desertification.

Law enforcement agencies PLANTED TREES

According to the spring 2025 data, the General Executive Agency of Court Decisions (GEACD) planted the highest number of trees among government institutions, with a total of 2.3 million trees. The Ministry of Defence followed with 1.6 million trees, and the General Authority for Border Protection planted 379,000 trees, leading the way in their respective sectors.



Agroecology School Trains GEACD Officers in Reforestation

Within the framework of the “Billion Trees” National Movement initiated by President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, who also serves as Commander-in-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces, the Director of the General Executive Agency of Court Decisions (GEACD) approved the “100 Million Trees Planting Program” under Order A/152 dated June 22, 2022.

Since its launch, a total of 2.3 million trees have been planted and nurtured across the GEACD system during the first half of the 2022–2025 period.

In addition, 51 officers completed reforestation training at the Agroecology School of the Mongolian University of Life Sciences and were awarded certificates. A further 1,170 inmates have enrolled in online courses covering subjects such as Reforestation, Agroforestry, Crop Agrotechnology, Irrigation, Fertilisation, Plant Protection, and Maintenance, and are now actively participating in tree-planting efforts.

To advance the “100 Million Trees Planting Program,” an annual tree-planting event has been established as a sector-wide tradition. Held in Tashir Valley in Songinokharkhan District, the event brings together more than 2,500 officers each year, who collectively plant 2,500 trees.



Ministry of Defence Advancing Its Commitment to Plant 27 Million Trees

The Armed Forces have pledged to plant 27 million trees as part of their efforts to transform military units, bases, and branches into “Eco-Green Campuses”, strengthen the operations of tree nurseries, and help achieve national goals to reduce climate change impacts, desertification, and land degradation.

To fulfill this commitment, a dedicated Environment and Ecology Division has been established, along with a Tree Nursery Training Center. Five nurseries covering a total of 35 hectares are now operating, where 2.1 million trees and shrubs have already been propagated.

Within the framework of the BILLION TREES national movement, the Ministry has also developed the web platform www.army-terbummod.gov.mn to record and track the number of trees planted, and it is now used in daily operations. In cooperation with the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, 27,454 officers and personnel have received ecological education and training.

To protect the Tavantolgoi–Zuunbayan railway line from shifting sands, a 250-meter-long and 8-meter-wide fenced area has been established, equipped with an irrigation system, and planted with 360 trees and shrubs, marking the start of this project.



Border Troops Are Building a Green Wall

The General Authority for Border Protection is implementing the “Green Wall” project. Within the framework of this initiative, a protective forest belt covering 960 hectares has been established along the border areas of Dornogovi, Sukhbaatar, and Dornod Aimags. A total of 1.5 million seedlings have been cultivated, and field reforestation has been carried out by planting 437,871 trees across 178.7 hectares in Govi-Altai, Bayankhongor, Umnugovi, Dornogovi, and Sukhbaatar Aimags.

In 2022, 516 conscript soldiers were trained as reforestation specialists and received professional certification.

Going forward, the project plans to establish protective forest belts using 92,400 deciduous trees in several aimags and to carry out reforestation by planting an additional 250,000 saxaul and larch trees.



The awareness campaign on the impact of tree planting received 155.3 million cumulative views

The Police and Internal Troops organisations have joined the “Billion Trees” National Movement and pledged to plant one million trees between 2021 and 2030, implementing according to a detailed action plan.

From 2021 to 2025, a total of 26,661 officers (cumulative count) planted 400,951 trees across 966 locations nationwide, achieving 30.0 percent of the target.

As part of public outreach, awareness-raising, and advocacy activities, eight nationwide campaigns, such as “BILLION TREES—Let’s Create Nature”, “Right Trees, Right Care”, “Everyone Is a Nature Protector”, and “Let’s Plant Trees in Our Yards”, were organised.

Campaign content was distributed through a wide range of channels, including residential building elevator screens; LED advertising boards in urban and rural areas; television; websites; newspapers and magazines; FM radio; roadside CCTVs; billboards; JC-Decaux bus stop panels; public buses in the capital and aimags; commercial bank ATMs and kiosk machines; internet banking platforms; government service apps such as E-Mongolia and EBarimt; mass messaging by mobile operators; and IPTV multi-channel service providers, fully utilising digital and guerrilla marketing channels.

A total of 1,066 news and informational materials were produced and shared online, generating 155.3 million cumulative views, equivalent to an average of 38.5 impressions per person based on Mongolia’s population. This extensive outreach has helped cultivate a culture of tree planting and care among the public, fostering positive habits, attitudes, and awareness.



EXPERTS' ADVICE



What kind of tree should a first-time planter choose?

Merit Environmental Worker and Head of the "Let Us Plant Trees at Your Home" NGO:

Batbold.B

First, focus on proper planning. Second, study the botanical characteristics of the tree. Understand how tall the tree you plan to plant will grow, how long it will live, how old you will be when it reaches maturity, and whether it is something you can pass on to your children. If you are planting fruit bushes, calculate what percentage of your household's needs they will meet and what potential income you could earn by producing semi-processed goods. There are 140 tree species that naturally grow in Mongolia. Ideally, 60–70 percent of the trees in your garden or yard should be native Mongolian species, with the remaining 30 percent consisting of ornamental or fruit-bearing trees. And one more important point: anyone planting a tree should also focus on creating a comfortable and pleasant environment.



How should you prepare a planting hole?

Senior Manager of the "Green Belt" Mongolian-Korean joint project:

Odsuren.Ch

When we carried out afforestation work in Umnugovi Aimag and Lun Soum, we dug the planting holes a year in advance. Over time, wind naturally deposits fertile soil into the holes, along with bits of plant residue. This process enriches the soil, making it more suitable for planting. There is a common belief that because soil moisture evaporates, it is better to plant a tree immediately after digging the hole. But this is not the case. Regardless of how dry the soil may be, thorough watering during planting and consistent watering afterwards will prevent the soil from drying out. Our experiments confirmed that if you want to improve soil quality, preparing the holes the year before produces significantly better results.



How should you choose tree seedlings?

Consulting Agronomist of Mongolia and Consultant at “Gobi Golden Seeds” LLC:

Tungalag.S

People often prefer to buy the tallest or biggest tree possible. However, regardless of its height, a tree with a well-developed root system will transplant more successfully and grow more vigorously. A living, healthy seedling feels supple when pressed. If you check a seedling and find that its branches are dry and brittle, it can be shaped and removed. It is important to choose seedlings with unopened buds and a strong root system, depending on the purpose, whether you are planting for forest restoration or ornamentally in your yard. Ideally, select young seedlings about 40–50 cm tall that have just begun forming a crown. The most important thing is to examine the roots carefully: since half of the tree is underground, the root system is crucial. Seedling selection also depends on the region. Consult experts to choose seedlings appropriate for your local climate and conditions. In the Khangai (forest) region, deciduous trees are suitable, while in the Gobi, where precipitation is low, container-grown seedlings with enclosed root systems are recommended. Always plant tree species that naturally grow in the local environment.



How to water trees?

Head of the Mongolian Environmental Civil Council and Head of the Galsan Tschinag Foundation

Galtaikhuu.G

The first watering should be done immediately after planting the tree, using at least 40–50 litres of water. This

helps the seedling settle into its new environment. After that, water at least twice a week with 20–40 litres each time. Spring watering should begin as early as April. From July and August onward, gradually reduce the watering amount. We must remember that tree care follows natural patterns. In nature, snow melts in April and May, providing moisture, and early summer rains continue to hydrate the soil. From August, rainfall decreases, and by October, as temperatures drop, trees naturally begin preparing for winter by closing their buds.

Once a tree starts closing its buds, reduce watering to once a week, then once every two weeks, gradually decreasing until the tree naturally closes its buds. In October, when temperatures fall below freezing, give the tree a deep “charging” watering. This should be done when nighttime temperatures reach about -5°C . Provide each tree with at least 40–50 litres of water; if the soil absorbs it well, add another round two or three days later and allow it to freeze.

This method ensures that water penetrates deeply and freezes during cold nights, remaining frozen throughout the winter. When the soil thaws in spring and the tree resumes growth, this stored frozen water melts and provides excellent early-season moisture, greatly supporting the tree’s recovery and growth.



When should trees be planted?

Forest Engineer and Executive Director of the Mongolian Forest Society NGO

Dr. Z. Tsogt

Tree planting generally begins in late April. Successful planting depends directly on natural ecological conditions. When nighttime temperatures rise above $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$, grasses, shrubs, and trees begin to sprout and bloom; this is a fundamental biological rule. Therefore, trees should be planted only once temperatures consistently remain above $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$. Planting during freezing conditions will cause seedlings to fail and die. Planting in greenhouses is possible, as long as they are opened during the day and closed at night. Many people plant too early or too late because they are unaware of these conditions, which is why their trees often do not survive.

Number of Tree Nurseries Increased by 32%



the capacity to produce the resources needed to plant and cultivate trees on the scale of a billion-tree initiative.

In the coming years, the goal is to increase the reserve of seedlings to 100 million in a short period of time. As of August 2024, about 650 enterprises hold official special licenses, and 43 percent of them are operating in the fields of tree cultivation and restoration. The long-standing experience, technology, investment, and skilled workforce of leading tree-nursery organisations that have demonstrated excellence in quality, scale, and profession-

alism now serve as exemplary models for other growers and newcomers to the sector.

Within the framework of the national movement, amendments have been made to relevant laws to exempt or reduce customs duties, VAT, and land and water usage fees for individuals and enterprises engaged in tree-nursery activities and restoration work.

Under the VAT exemption law, from 2021 to 2025, imported and domestically sold forestry machinery, equipment, greenhouses, irrigation systems, fertilizers, and plant-protection products are exempt from value-added tax. As a result, between 2021 and 2023, 25 enterprises received tax exemptions totaling 49.8 billion MNT. Furthermore, through an amendment to Section 2 of Annex 2 of Government Resolution No. 419 issued on November 23, 2022, organisations that use water specifically for restoring natural resources by planting plants are now 100 percent exempt from fees for the use of both groundwater and surface water.

Since the launch of the "Billion Trees" National Movement, the number of planted and cultivated trees, seedlings, seed reserves, and tree nurseries has increased by five to six times compared to previous years.

The participation and capacity of tree-nursery enterprises are critical to achieving real, measurable outcomes under the movement. Providing high-quality, resilient seedlings is not just a business; it is an essential part of sustainable green development. Tree-nursery enterprises operating in both rural areas and the capital are now key partners in implementing reforestation and restoration policies on the ground by cultivating tree and shrub species suited to their local environments and building up seedling reserves.

As of 2024, the number of individual forest nurseries, cooperatives, enterprises, and organisations engaged in tree cultivation has increased by 32%, reaching a total of 452 nurseries nationwide. These nurseries have built a reserve of approximately 63 million seedlings of 124 species, demonstrating that Mongolia has



“Bugant Nandin” LLC LEADS the Private Sector in Tree Planting and Nursery Production

Within the framework of the “Billion Trees” National Movement, “Bugant Nandin” LLC is at the forefront of private-sector efforts, planting and cultivating more than 3 million trees.

Since 2007, the company has operated in tree nursery production, forest rehabilitation and reforestation, subsoil restoration, and wood processing and is recognised as a professional forestry organisation supported by a team with skilled and experienced engineers and employees. With the launch of the “Billion Trees” National Movement in 2022, the company has expanded its nursery sites and planted 350–500 kg of seeds from 17 species of deciduous and coniferous trees suited to Mongo-

lia’s climate, successfully cultivating a significant number of seedlings. Since 2023, approximately 1,600 kg of tree seeds have been sown in the nurseries to support the implementation of the “Billion Trees” National Movement. In cooperation with the Governor’s Office of Selenge Aimag and as part of the President’s “Billion Trees” National Movement, the company has conducted reforestation on 1,237.9 hectares, planting 3.057 million deciduous and coniferous trees. In 2024, under a joint project with the “Billion Trees Foundation”, the company successfully completed reforestation using more than one million coniferous and deciduous trees in Khushaat and Altanbulag Soums of Selenge Aimag and in Khongor Soum of Darkhan-Uul Aimag, contributing significantly to the restoration of degraded forest areas.



The World Faces an Increasing Challenge in Managing Water Resources Efficiently



Bogd River Waterfall, Zavkhan Aimag
Photograph by Dorjpurev.J, 2021

The intensification of population growth, climate change, and urbanisation among other factors — also pose considerable challenges to water security every year. For example, by 2050, the world population is projected to reach 9.8 billion, and water demand is expected to rise by 20–30 percent compared to current levels (UN, 2019). Intensive urbanisation is also disrupting the balance of access to clean water. Uneven population distribution and unequal availability of freshwater resources mean that many countries around the world are likely to face water shortages in the coming de-

acades. As a result, the world is confronted with the major challenge of managing water resources efficiently.

Global experience shows that water scarcity often leads to food shortages, regional conflicts driven by water disputes, slower economic growth, and environmental degradation. Ensuring reliable access to clean water has therefore emerged as one of the most urgent priorities for governments and the international community in the years ahead.

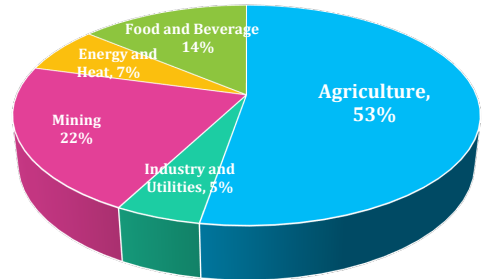


Mongolia's Annual Water Consumption, million m³/year

Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024
Agriculture	339.2	338.6	337.5	300.5
Mining	113.4	92.5	171.1	161.3
Food and Beverage	84.5	86.3	88	89.4
Energy and Heat	41.5	46.2	46.6	36
Industry and Utilities	16.2	42.6	35.9	30.7
Total	594.8	606.2	679.1	617.9

Water Use by Sectors

Average for 2021-2024



FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDERWAY FOR THE “ONE SOUM – ONE LAKE” PROJECT

Mongolia’s water resources total 564.8 km³, consisting of 19.4 km³ of permanent snow and glaciers, 34.6 km³ of rivers, 500 km³ of lakes and ponds, and 10.8 km³ of groundwater

Approximately 70 percent of Mongolia’s river water resources originate in the high mountain regions of the Altai, Khangai, Khentii, and Khuvsgul Ranges, as well as the Greater Khinggan Range.

These headwater areas form a river basin zone covering 143,998.8 km² about 9.1 percent of the country’s total territory of which 71,949.05 km² is designated as state-protected land. In 2022, Mongolia’s total water consumption reached 606.2 million m³. By sector, livestock husbandry accounted for 31 percent of total use, followed by irrigated agriculture at 25 percent, mining at 15 percent, drinking water and household consumption at 14 percent, energy and heating at 8 percent, and industry and public services at 7 percent.

According to the Vision 2050 long-term development policy document,

Mongolia aims to protect 55 percent of river headwater areas by 2025, 60 percent by 2030, and 75 percent by 2050 as part of its national goal to safeguard river basin headwaters. In 2023, a total of 4,415 hectares of water-related areas nationwide were reported as degraded. The most significant impacts included 203 ha (46%) affected by surface and groundwater pollution, 167.5 ha (38%) contaminated by livestock and human activities near springs, streams, and wells, and 71 ha (16%) of riverbank areas damaged by mineral extraction.

To secure the water resources needed for tree planting, especially to transfer surface water to the Gobi region, build small reservoirs, and introduce efficient, advanced irrigation technologies, the following measures are being implemented:

- **Conducting research on locations suitable for surface-water storage in cooperation with the Water Department;**
- **Developing a model feasibility study for implementing the “One Soum – One Lake” project;**
- **Testing water-saving eco-buckets in Batsumber Soum of Tuv Aimag and Mandalgovi Soum of Dundgovi Aimag.**

In addition, efforts to protect surface water reservoirs and to afforest river basin areas were implemented across 160 hectares at 16 sites during 2023–2024.

A CITY FAMILY THAT HAS PLANTED 200 TREES IN THEIR YARD



In Mongolia, 46 percent of the total population, about 1.6 million people, live in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

More than 60 percent of the city's population resides in ger district areas. According to estimates, if each of the 205,000 households in the ger districts planted trees in their yards, Ulaanbaatar's air pollution could be reduced by 50 percent, and dust pollution could decrease by 80 percent through greening. In this section, we introduce an exemplary family who not only planted and nurtured trees in their yard but also enjoys the benefits of their own planted trees, bushes and thriving environment.

Vaanchig.Z and his wife, Unurjargal.M, residents of the 1st khoroo of Songinokhairkhan District in Ulaanbaatar, planted their first pine tree in their yard 27 years ago. Today, that pine has grown to about three metres tall.

Since then, they have planted and nurtured around 200 trees of fruit-bearing, deciduous, and coniferous species, such as blackcurrant, plum, bird cherry, seabuckthorn, apple, barberry, hawthorn, and red cherry. Their achievement feels almost unbelievable for smoky Ulaanbaatar, as it required immense dedication, effort, and care. Just a few steps outside their house, they can cool off in the shade of their trees, enjoy fresh fruits, decorate a living fir tree for

Soil Care

There are only a few households in the area that have planted trees. Because the soil is clay-heavy, it becomes compact and prevents trees from growing. To prepare the soil properly, they mix clay with manure, sand, and nutrient-rich dark soil. If you take fresh manure directly from someone's livestock pen and apply it, the tree's roots will be damaged. Instead, use well-aged manure, one to two years old, or even three to four years old, which has become lighter and fully decomposed.

Things to Consider When Planting Fruit Trees

When planting fruit trees, the method of planting the seedling is crucial. You cannot simply place it directly into a hole. The soil must be properly prepared and studied beforehand. In some areas, the layer of fertile dark soil is only 20-30 cm thick, so you should not plant the seedling too deep.

Do not dig down into the clay layer; instead, plant the tree so that its roots spread within the fertile soil layer. The hole should not be dug too large, and a radius of 50-60 cm is sufficient.

How to Choose a Seedling

It largely depends on where and how the seedling was grown. Check whether the seedling has been in its pot for a long time or if it was only recently potted. Recently potted seedlings tend to have poor growth. The most important thing is to examine the roots. Plant the seedling before it starts budding. If it has already budded, its growth will be weak.

Watering

For irrigation, we depend on a deep well. However, watering plants directly with very cold well water slows their growth. Therefore, we first pour the well water into a fountain basin, let it sit for 1-2 days to warm up, and only then use it for watering.

We also collect rainwater from our own roof and our neighbor's roof, trying to save and use every drop. Since well water is hard and rainwater is soft, rainwater is especially beneficial for watering trees.

Care

During the first two years, the trees need careful maintenance. Once they establish themselves, the amount of care required gradually decreases. However, fruit trees must never be left completely unattended. Each spring, when blossoms appear, they need protection. From each blackcurrant bush, we harvest 4-5 kg of fruit. Plums also grow well. To prevent pests, we whitewash the tree trunks.

Pruning and Trimming

Some trees in the center of the yard had grown 3-4 metres tall, so we cut them back to allow sunlight to reach the plum and blackcurrant bushes, as well as the young larch trees grown from seed, thereby im-



the winter holidays, and live comfortably in a yard filled with the natural beauty of flourishing trees and flowers. This is what a truly beautiful life looks like. Mr. Vaanchig and Ms. Unurjargal shared their valuable, real-life experience with numerous urban households who want to plant trees but haven't started since they don't know where to start. When you first plant a tree and look at it every day, it may feel as if it's not growing at all. Coniferous trees, in particular, grow slowly at first, but once they take root and gain strength, they grow quickly and encouragingly tall. If a tree doesn't grow well or its leaves yellow, it can be discouraging, and you may feel like giving up. That's why they recommend starting with low-maintenance trees. Once you gain confidence from those, you can move step by step toward planting pines and fruit trees that require more attentive care.

proving fruit ripening. If fruit tree branches grow too long and wildly, they interfere with each other, and the wind can knock blossoms off the branches. That is why pruning is necessary. Generally, when left unpruned, trees look like a person who hasn't had a haircut. So we trim them neatly for appearance and shape. Large poplars and elms grow even denser when pruned, and their lifespan increases. Pruning also helps reduce flies and mosquitoes.

What should you do if you are evicted from land or move away?

If we ever move, we will not take the trees with us, and the rooted trees must be left behind. That is why proper tree valuation is important, and we believe improvements are needed in this area.

Wintering

Because we have tall evergreen pines that block strong winds, snow does not blow away easily; instead, it gathers and stays in drifts. When it snows, we sweep the snow from around the yard and pile it around the fruit trees to insulate and protect them.

Reasons Why Trees Fail to Grow

The primary cause is poor or insufficient care. In urban landscapes, some people carelessly step on newly planted trees or lawns, showing little regard for the effort invested in maintaining them. We believe it is essential to focus more on raising public awareness and encouraging greater respect and responsibility toward shared green spaces.



The "PLANT FIVE TREES IN OUR YARD" Ecological Campaign to Continue Through 2025

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has launched and is now implementing the "Plant Five Trees in Our Yard" campaign. Planting and caring for trees is one of the most effective natural solutions for reducing urban air pollution, dust, and noise, while also helping to create cleaner, more comfortable living environments in cities and communities.

Within the framework of the "Billion Trees" National Movement, the campaign aims to improve citizens' ecological awareness and establish the habit of planting and caring for trees.

As part of the initiative, small, medium, and micro enterprises engaged in tree nursery production and planting services, as well as interested households, are being provided with guidance, methods, and seedlings.

Currently, the campaign has reached 9,225 households in the ger districts of Ulaanbaatar's seven districts and 32 soums across 16 aimags. The campaign will continue until December 25 of this year.

How to Apply: **Submit your request through E-Mongolia**

Incentive: **Receive paid services from E-Mongolia free of charge**

Requirements for Applicants:

- The applicant's residential address information must match official records
- Trees planted through the program must not be transplanted elsewhere
- A photo of the site where the trees will be planted must be provided
- The applicant's yard or land must have an ownership certificate
- Each citizen may submit an application only once



What do different religions teach about planting trees?



Rather than pouring milk on a tree, the proper and effective practice is to water its roots. A tree should be respected just as you would care for another human being.

Head of "Tenger tailal" Shaman
Khosbayar.U

In Mongolian shamanic tradition, many rituals emphasise loving and protecting Mother Nature and her trees. At the heart of shamanic philosophy is deep reverence for Father Sky, Mother Earth, and all living beings that inhabit them. Every mountain, river, tree, and shrub is considered alive and possessing its own spirit. Because of this, mistreating nature, showing improper respect, polluting water, or harming trees is believed to bring misfortune, potentially causing injury or affecting future generations. Whatever we take from nature, we must give back in return. One of the principles in the shamanic oath states, "Do not disturb the forests, the elms, the rocks, or the stones." They must be approached only with respect. Today, some people believe they are honouring trees by pouring milk on them or tying ceremonial khadags, but such actions actually harm the tree rather than pay tribute to it. If one truly wishes to perform a ritual, they should water the tree's roots, bow to its seeds, receive its energy, and speak to it gently as if addressing another human being. This practice brings calm and lifts the heart. Taiga shamans are believed to possess powerful energy because they live close to the forest and draw great strength from the trees. Likewise, spending time near trees revitalises a person's energy and refreshes the mind. Those who plant

and care for trees for the sake of future generations are, in a sense, clearing their own path and opening the door to a bright and prosperous future. People who nurture trees are often thought to enjoy good fortune, for as trees grow, springs return and ecological diversity flourishes. Such actions are deeply blessed and encouraged by the upper world.



If you wish to leave a lasting legacy for your name and lineage, plant a tree.

Leader of the 'Mekke' Mosque
Janarbek.R

The Quran teaches us to love and protect all living beings and everything created by Allah to find joy in them, honour them, and show compassion. Within these teachings, planting trees is regarded as a noble and virtuous deed, while cutting or destroying a growing plant or tree is regarded as equivalent to cutting off a part of one's own body. When you plant a tree, caring for it and safeguarding its growth becomes a responsibility you owe before Allah. Islam has two major branches, yet both share a deep reverence for the heavens. It is our responsibility to love and protect all mountains, rivers, and nature. One well-known teaching states that even if the world were about to end, a believer should still plant the sapling in their hand. This expresses the belief that the trees we plant today will one day offer shade, comfort, air, and water to people and animals, especially if future

generations face hardship or natural disaster. Another teaching holds that when an elderly person passes away and is laid to rest, the family should plant a tree as a blessing for the departed soul. Among the Kazakh people, it is a long-standing tradition to plant trees during Nauryz, the spring celebration marking the balance of day and night and the awakening of all life. This practice is also supported by teachings in the Quran. Thus, on the day nature awakens, it is customary for people to plant trees. If you wish to leave a legacy that carries your name and lineage into the future, plant a grove. Even a single tree makes a difference. Your descendants will cherish it, saying, “This was planted by my ancestors.” Plant a tree wholeheartedly so that one day you may sit in its shade with your grandchildren.



Work the land and harvest your crops for six years, but in the seventh year you must let the land rest, allowing it to lie fallow

Senior Pastor, Living Word Christian Church

Batbold L.

The Bible speaks of a wondrous tree. In the Book of Revelation, it describes the Tree of Life, which bears twelve kinds of fruit and yields its harvest every month. The leaves of this tree are said to bring healing to the nations, meaning that even its leaves carry a blessing capable of restoring entire peoples. While Scripture teaches that the sacred Tree of Life is not to be touched, it also speaks of another tree that brings life to humanity. Before creating humankind, God created the earth, and then He created the trees. The Bible tells us that God made many beautiful and diverse trees. Through trees, God designed the world so that nations would be blessed and so that our peace, health, and well-being would remain intimately tied to the natural environment. The Holy Scriptures emphasise that God first created the natural world, preparing a beautiful home for humankind; that the first responsibility given to humanity was to protect, care for, and cultivate this environment while enjoying its blessings; and that, to preserve ecological balance, nature must be protected, nurtured, and even allowed to “rest”.

Thus, in the Old Testament, the Book of Leviticus teaches: Work the land and harvest your crops for six years, but in the seventh year you must let the land rest, allowing it to lie fallow. Human beings are not meant only to take from nature but to care for it, protect it, and plant and nurture trees. This is God’s will and a core biblical principle. We decorate a green pine tree at Christmas because it sym-

bolises “eternal life”. The evergreen tree, which never withers, represents life that endures. In this way, we are reminded that the plants, trees, and natural world around us sustain our own lives. Planting a tree where we live and even adorning it is a way of honouring God’s creation and taking part in the responsibility He has entrusted to us.



If you truly wish to respect nature, leave it as it is. There is no need to offer food or ritual offerings.

Head of the Office of the Chief Khamba Lama at Gandan Tegchenlin Monastery

Gavj Nyamsambuu D.

There are many teachings not only about trees but also about the relationship between humans and nature as a whole, including doctrines related to planting trees. Among Buddhists, however, there can sometimes be extreme views or an excessive tendency to worship trees, stones, or natural objects, believing that they determine one’s happiness or suffering, or that a person’s fate is controlled by a particular tree, rock, or forest somewhere. This is a fundamental misunderstanding. Buddhism explains everything through the doctrine of dependent origination (Pratityasamutpāda): nothing exists independently; everything arises in dependence on other causes and conditions. Because our lives rely on air, water, and trees, we can live well and long only when these conditions are present. Recognising this natural law means we must value, respect, and love the environment that sustains us. Although Mongolia has vast lands, its ecological balance has been disrupted, and both the soil and natural productivity have become fragile. We live in the dry, high-altitude region of Central Asia, and it is undeniable that human activities have contributed to environmental degradation. Therefore, to ensure Mongolia’s long-term sustainability, it is essential to restore our degraded environment, plant trees, care for them, and treat nature with respect. What matters most is to plant and nurture trees. Do not worship them—love and respect them. I hope people will come to understand, through knowledge and natural science, the true value of caring for, cultivating, and propagating trees. Restoration is a noble duty, and if we use natural resources, we must also restore them.

If you truly respect nature, leave it in its natural state, then nature will flourish. There is no need to offer food or ritual offerings; nature does not need rice or sweets.

The construction of the New Kharkhorum City has officially commenced

On the 860th anniversary of the birth of Great Chinggis Khaan, President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa issued a decree to rebuild the new city of Kharkhorum in the Orkhon Valley, an area recognised as a World Heritage Site of immense historical and cultural value. Since then, all necessary studies for establishing the city have been completed.

On June 15, 2025, the construction of Kharkhorum City was officially launched with a ceremony raising the State Flag, the enduring symbol of the Mongolian people's historical tradition, aspirations, unity, justice, and spirit, held at the "Great Khans' Park" in accordance with the President's decree.

As part of the development of the new Kharkhorum City, 1.2 million coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs will be planted across 1,500 hectares, ensuring that 50 percent of the city's total area will be green space. During the second quarter of 2025, more than 700,000 trees were planted with the participation of over 800 people from more than 40 organisations representing the government, the mining and private sectors, and the forestry industry. Around 11,000 trees were planted in the nearby "Great Khans' Park." To ensure the healthy growth of each tree, the area has been divided into sections, and drip-irrigation systems using deep-well groundwater, surface water, and recycled greywater are being installed wherever needed.



President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa expressed, on behalf of the people of Mongolia, his gratitude to the organisations, companies, and citizens who devoted their energy, initiative, and financial resources to the greening efforts of the new Kharkhorum City. The new Kharkhorum City is planned to accommodate 500,000 residents and create 285,000 jobs, becoming an eco-city that will drive regional development. It will also play a major role in reducing population concentration, which currently contributes to traffic congestion and to air, water, and soil pollution that harm society, the economy, public health, and overall quality of life. The new city will help create healthy, safe living conditions, ensure access to essential public services, and support the development of new residential zones.

**ХАШААНДАА
МОН
ТАРЬСАН ӨРХИЙГ
УРАМШУУЛАХ
ЖУРАМ**

**ХАШААНДАА
МОН
ТАРЬСАН ӨРХИЙГ
УРАМШУУЛАХ
ЖУРАМ**

ТАВИГДАХ ШААРДЛАГА

- ✓ МӨРӨН СУМЫН ГОР БУЛИН ХӨРӨГӨНД СААР ЭЗЭМЖИХ ГЭРЭЭ ГЭРЧМЭГЭЭС БУЙН ӨРХ БАЙНА.
- ✓ МОН ТАРХАЖ УГУУЛАХ АРГА ХЭМЖЭЭНД ОРСВӨРЧ ӨРХ АЙЛУУДЫГ НОГ ТӨЛӨМӨС ТӨСӨВ ТӨГ ӨННӨН ОНЛУУД ТАРЬСАН МЭДЭЭ ТОО ХАМААРХУЙ ЗӨВӨН ТУХАЙН ХИЙД ТАРЬСАН МОНЧЫ ХӨМЖӨ ХАМААРНА.
- ✓ МОН ТАРХАЖ ӨРХ НЬ БАЙГАЛД УРГАЖ БАЙЛА МОНЧЫ ШИЖУУЛСАН СУУГАХУЙ БАЙНА. ИЙЛЭГДЭЭР БОЛОВ ТАРХАЖСАА НЬ ТӨДӨРКӨЙГ МОН ТАРХАЖ ХОРИЛСНО.
- ✓ ТАРЬСАН МОНЧЫ УГААТ ЭХНИЙ ЖИЙД ТӨ АЛС ДОСГАХУЙ 2 ДАХЬ ЖИЙД 100 КУВЬ УРГУУЛСАН БАЙН. ЭА ГҮНЭЭС ДОСГУУР УГААТ ТИР ТӨСӨГӨЛӨД УРАМШУУЛАХ ХАМРУУЛАХ НӨХӨДӨЙГ ХАНГАЛГУУД ТӨСӨНӨ.
- ✓ ХАШААНДА ТАРЬСАН МОН БУРИЙГ ДУГААРИХ ГИМЭ ЭҮЭСЭН БАЙНА.
- ✓ УРАМШУУЛАХ ХАМРАДАХ ӨРХҮҮД 6 ШИРХЭГ ЖИМЭНИЙ МОН 6 ШИРХЭГ БУСАД ТӨРӨЙН ӨНДӨР УРАГДА МОН НИЙТ 10 ШИРХЭГ МОН ТАРНА.

МӨРӨН СУМЫН ЗАСАГ ДАРГЫН ТАМГИЙН ГАЗАР

3-Р САРЫН 20
4-Р САРЫН 20-НЫ ХҮРТЛӨХ
ХУГАЦААНД БҮРТГЭНЭ

2026 он	2027 он	2028 он
2025 ОНЫ ХАВААР БҮРТГҮҮЛСЭН ИРГЭД 2 ӨННӨ ТҮРШ ТАРЬСАН МОНЧОО УРГУУЛАХ 2026 НАМААР ХҮТЭЭЛЭГЭН ӨГЧ УРАМШУУЛАХ ХАМРАГДАНА.	2026 ОНЫ ХАВААР БҮРТГҮҮЛСЭН ИРГЭД 2 ӨННӨ ТҮРШ ТАРЬСАН МОНЧОО УРГУУЛАХ 2027 НАМААР ХҮТЭЭЛЭГЭН ӨГЧ УРАМШУУЛАХ ХАМРАГДАНА.	2027 ОНЫ ХАВААР БҮРТГҮҮЛСЭН ИРГЭД 2 ӨННӨ ТҮРШ ТАРЬСАН МОНЧОО УРГУУЛАХ 2028 НАМААР ХҮТЭЭЛЭГЭН ӨГЧ УРАМШУУЛАХ ХАМРАГДАНА.
500,000 10 ширхэг мод	500,000 10 ширхэг мод	500,000 10 ширхэг мод

МӨРӨН СУМЫН ЗАСАГ ДАРГЫН ТАМГИЙН ГАЗАР

3-Р САРЫН 20
4-Р САРЫН 20-НЫ ХҮРТЛӨХ
ХУГАЦААНД БҮРТГЭНЭ

Khuvsgul Aimag Begins Providing INCENTIVE to Households That Plant Trees in Their Yards

The incentive program began in March 2025 and will continue until September 2028. People may submit their applications to their respective bagh or khoroo authorities. The governors of the 14 baghs of Murun Soum are compiling registration lists of households participating in tree planting and are organising the registration and tagging of trees planted in household yards. To provide guidance and information to households wishing to plant trees, experienced elders are being employed, creating job opportunities while offering practical advice.

Murun Soum of Khuvsgul Aimag has decided to provide incentives of 500,000 MNT to each household that successfully plants and grows 10 trees in their yard, valuing each tree at 50,000 MNT.



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA
NATIONAL FOREST AGENCY

NATIONAL FOREST AGENCY

By Government Resolution No. 272 issued on July 5, 2022, the “National Forest Agency” was established as a government implementing agency. The “Strategic Program for Operational and Organisational Restructuring of the National Forest Agency and Its Organisational Structure” was approved by Order No. A/418 of the Minister of Environment and Tourism on October 13, 2022. The National

Forest Agency develops policy and program frameworks for the protection, sustainable use, and restoration of forest resources in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and ensures their implementation. Its mission is to provide high-level professional and administrative services in implementing state policy aimed at maintaining ecosystem balance, preventing resource depletion and degradation, increasing forested

areas through reforestation and afforestation, and establishing sustainable forest management.

In doing so, it seeks to ensure environmental sustainability, create conditions for present and future generations to benefit from forest resources, and contribute to improving the quality of human life.

FOREST LAND RESOURCES: 19,103,221 HECTARES, ACCOUNTING FOR 12.21% OF THE TOTAL TERRITORY

Mongolia’s forest resources include all types of trees, saxaul, shrubs, bushes, and cultivated forest plantations within the country’s territory. Forest lands encompass forested areas, forest gaps, and areas affected by logging, fire, insect infestation, or disease. They also include the 100-meter buffer zone beyond the forest edge and areas occupied by seedling nurseries. Together, these components constitute the nation’s forest resources.

Mongolia’s forests are part of the Siberian Taiga and consist mainly of mountain forests that grow along three major global watershed divides. The country’s forests play an important ecological role by regulating river water resources, protecting soil from erosion and degradation, mitigating climate, absorbing greenhouse gases, providing habitat for wildlife, plants, and microorganisms, and stabilising permafrost.

As of December 31, 2024, the total area of Mongolia’s forest land is 19,103,221 hectares, accounting for 12.21 percent of the country’s total territory.

Forest land is classified into forest land and non-forest land. Forest land is further divided into areas covered by

forest and areas not covered by forest. Forest-covered land totals 13,217,327 hectares, or 8.45 percent of the national territory, and contains more than 140 species of trees and shrubs. Of these, 83.1 percent are broadleaf and coniferous forests, while 16.9 percent are saxaul forests.

Mongolia’s total forest resources amount to 1,259,025,491 cubic metres, consisting of 78.8 percent larch, 5.1 percent pine, 8.9 percent cedar, 0.2 percent spruce, 0.01 percent fir, 6.0 percent birch, 0.17 percent poplar, 0.05 percent elm, 0.01 percent willow, 0.3 percent bush willow, 0.005 percent aspen, and 0.14 percent saxaul.

Of Mongolia’s total forest land, 84.1 percent is designated as a protected zone, while 15.9 percent falls within the utilisation zone. In accordance with Article 9.1 of the Forest Law of Mongolia, utilisation zones have been established in the forest resource areas of nine aimags.

Selective logging is permitted in the utilisation zone. Based on allowable limits, Mongolia can extract up to 270.2 thousand cubic metres of timber annually from 11,116 hectares of forest through selective harvesting for primary use.



Khuvsgul Lake located in Khuvsgul Aimag
Photograph by MPA Agency, 2022





BILLIONTREES

SOCIALLY ORIENTED

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

“Billion Trees” SO NGO



The “Billion Trees” Socially Oriented Non-Governmental Organisation (SO NGO) was restructured and established in November 2024 with the purpose of promoting and accelerating the implementation of the “Billion Trees” National Movement initiated by the President of Mongolia. Its goals include increasing the participation of businesses, individuals, and the public, as well as raising environmental awareness.

The “Billion Trees” SO NGO carries out activities such as initiating nationally significant projects and programs, cooperating with international organisations and countries, ensuring inter-sectoral coordination, expanding public and institutional engagement, promoting ecological education, and conducting monitoring.

In the past period, the organisation has carried out the following activities:

- In cooperation with the Mongolian Mining Association, organised a conference under the name of the “Billion Trees” national movement;
- Initiated the “Maple Grove” project at Chinggis Khaan International Airport with the support of MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation at Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Held a consultation meeting with forestry sector companies and NGOs on the topic “Are we ready to plant 150 million trees in 2025?”;
- Participated in organising the establishment of “Billion Trees” parks in the centres of all 21 aimags.



BILLIONTREES

SOCIALLY ORIENTED
NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

*Through the 'Billion Trees' national movement, we aim to
become a bridge toward green development.*



www.billiontreesmongolia.com