

until April. Precipitation is low throughout the year (annual average in Hovd City 122 mm) and most of it falls during summer between June and August.

15. **Hydrological values:** The lakes of Har Us Nuur, Har Nuur and Dorgon Nuur belong to an internal drainage basin and are therefore of fundamental importance for the ground water recharge of the area.

16. **Ecological features:** Large areas of the lakes are covered by floating and submerse vegetation (*Nymphaea spec.*, *Nuphar spec.*, *Potamogeton spec.*). The marshes are dominated by *Phragmites communis*. A list of the wetland plants of South Har Us Nuur is appended.

17. **Noteworthy flora:**

Endangered plants according to the Red Book of Mongolia:

Nymphaea candida

Cynomorium songaricum

18. **Noteworthy fauna:**

Mammals: The Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa nigripes*) is an endangered species in Mongolia and listed in the Red data book of Mongolia as rare. Nowadays it only occurs in the Hovd Gol Delta in remarkable numbers. A survey in 1997 found about 40 to 60 animals in that area.

Birds: The following list includes the most interesting waterbird observations, a complete list of the waterbird census in 1998 is appended:

Species	Red Book MGL	Glob. threatened	Ramsar 1%-level
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			X
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			X
<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	X		X
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	X		X
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X		X
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	X		
<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	X	X	
<i>Anser anser</i>			X
<i>Anser indicus</i>	X		
<i>Anas strepera</i>			X
<i>Netta rufina</i>			X
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X	
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	X	X	X
<i>Limnodromus</i>	X	X	
<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	X		
<i>Larus relictus</i>	X	X	
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	X		
<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>		X	

The area is a former breeding site of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Pelicans have been hunted in Mongolia for their beaks, because the upper mandible is a desired status symbol for race horse owners. In the last years there have been no more breeding records, but passing birds are sometimes sighted. A return of the pelican to Har Us Nuur National Park is still possible.

Fish: Five fish species live in the waters of Har Us Nuur National Park. That are all endemic to West Mongolia: *Thymallus brevirostris*, *Oreoleuciscus pewzowi*, *Oreoleuciscus humilis*, *Oreoleuciscus potanini* and *Noemacheilus strauchi*.

19. Social and cultural values: The area has high social values for tourism, recreation, scientific research, education, water supply, fishing and grazing. The last two factors might affect the wetland negatively (illegal fishing, overgrazing of the reedbeds). An important cultural value of the area is the high number of different ethnic groups that are living here together. A number of sacred places (small hills and sacrifice places) and archeological sites (stone carving and deerstone near Telin Gol) are spread in the area.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: The wetland and the surrounding are state owned.

21. Current land use: The general form of land use is semi-nomadic animal husbandry. The herdsmen breed sheep, goats, camels, horses and cattle. The annual nomadic migration system is very complex. Main moving directions are from the lake shores to the foothills of the adjacent mountains and vice versa, but not all families are moving into the same direction at the same time of the year. Main patterns are a regular distribution at the lakes in spring and autumn, a movement out of the wetland in summer (mid June to September) and a concentration of families in winter at the vast reed beds, which are used as grazing areas than. Hunting and fishing is of little importance.

Also in the surroundings and the catchment areas of the wetland, animal husbandry is by far the dominating factor. There is some crop production near the village of Chandman and along Bujant River, where near the settlements of Mjangad and Bujant about 600 ha of land are under cultivation. There is only little industry in Hovd City.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

At the site: A hydroelectric power plant is in planning at Chono Khariakhin Gol, the connection between Har Us Nuur and Har Nuur. The construction of a dam would have a serious impact on the water level, the aquatic plants, the limnofauna and the migration ways