

of fishes. The place where the power plant is planned to be, has already been excluded of the proposed conservation area during the establishment period of the national park.

Livestock numbers have drastically risen in the last years. Overgrazing of pastureland is therefore a problem along the shorelines and the reedbeds of the wetland as well as in the surrounding areas.

In 1967, the Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) was introduced to Har Us Nuur for fur production. Since then it has widely spread in the whole area and the massive appearance regularly destroys parts of the reedbeds.

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**23. Conservation measures taken:** The area was set aside as national park in 1997. According to the Mongolian Law on Protected Areas a national park is the second highest conservation category. A park administration with 5 fulltime employees is established. The ranger system includes 5 rangers in the 5 surrounding settlements (=somens) and is provided with some equipment (horses, binocular, info material about the legal status etc.). The rangers are trained in enforcement of environmental legislation.

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**24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** A general management plan and a public awareness program are in preparation. At the moment an information center is being established at the national park administration building in Hovd City. The park administration began to take agreements with the herdsman about using of pastureland. At present, WWF Mongolia is trying to raise funds for a comprehensive environmental impact assessment for the hydroelectric power plant in planning at Chono Khariakhin Gol.

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**25. Current scientific research and facilities:** A botanical survey, a survey about zooplankton, a census of wild boar and a waterbird census have recently been carried out. In Hovd City a university is situated, but there are no special research facilities inside the national park.

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**26. Current conservation education:**

For the park staff: Several training for the members of the park administration (PRA training, public awareness) and ranger training has been carried out since the establishment of the national park.

For the public: Training for biology teachers of the 5 concerned settlements took place in Mai 1998. Community meetings in the wetland area, called up for several issues, are used by park staff members for introductions or explanations about the national park whenever possible.

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** The remoteness of the area from the capital Ulaanbaatar or other big cities keeps the using of the wetland for recreation and tourism very low. There is no public transport to the wetland from Hovd City and tourist facilities like camp sites, tented camps, hotels, bird observation hides etc. are not available at the moment. A small number of guided tours from Ulaanbaatar touch the area for a short time stay mostly in the month from June to September. The interests of tourists are the beauty of the landscape, bird watching and very rarely sport fishing.

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**28. Jurisdiction:**

**Territorial:** The wetland area belongs to five different somons (= settlements), which are the smallest administrative units in Mongolia (Manchan, Buyant, Myangad, Dorgon and Chandman).

**Functional:** Nature and Environmental Protection Agency of the Ministry for Nature and the Environment, Governmental House No. 3, Baga Toiruu 44, Ulaanbaatar 11, Tel: 00976-1-326617, Fax: 00976-1-328620, E-mail: Baigyam@magicnet.mn

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**29. Management authority:**

Har Us Nuur National Park Administration,  
P.O. Box 151,  
Hovd Aimag, Mongolia

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