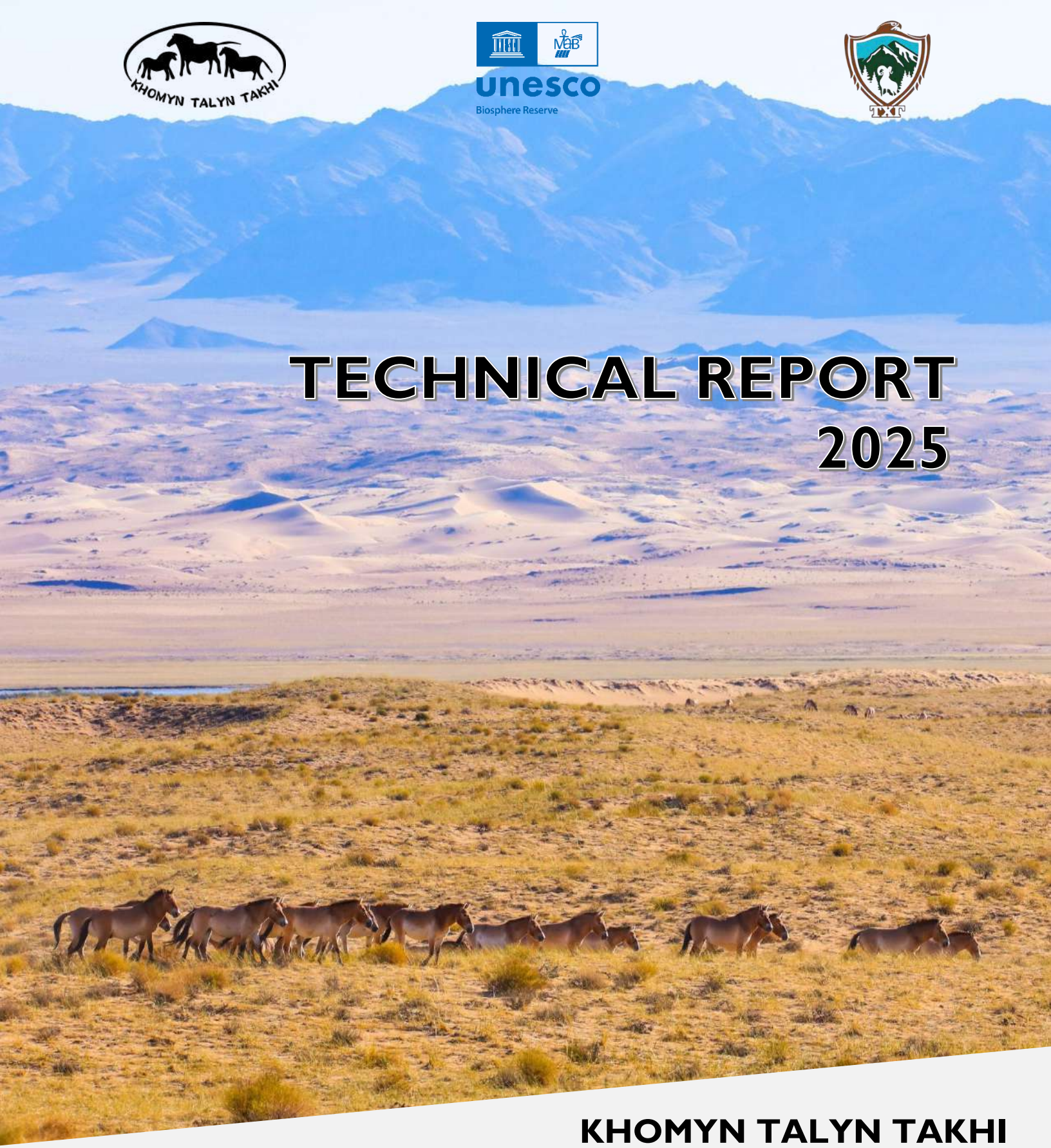

TECHNICAL REPORT 2025

KHOMYN TALYN TAKHI

MUNKHBAT TSERENDORJ,
NARANGARAV ENKHJARGAL,
ZOLJARGAL GANBOLD,
OTGONGEREL YANJINSUREN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the progress and outcomes of the Khomyn Talyn Takhi's (KTT) project "Strengthening management capacity of Khomyn Tal National Park" for 2025, focusing on the reintroduction and conservation of Przewalski's horses (Takhi) in Khomyn Tal National Park (KTNP), Mongolia. The project is structured around four main outcomes, each with specific outputs and achievements.

A Year in the Wild: The Story of Khomyn Tal National Park in 2025

The year 2025 was a pivotal chapter in the ongoing story of Khomyn Tal National Park (KTNP) in Mongolia. It was a year marked by both profound challenges and historic triumphs in the mission to bring the majestic Przewalski's horse, or Takhi, back from the brink and restore the wild heart of the Gobi.

The narrative of the year can be told through four interconnected journeys: the struggle and resilience of the Takhi herds, the growing voice and partnership of the park, the budding promise of sustainable livelihoods, and the internal strengthening of the team that makes it all possible.

The Takhi horses: A Story of Resilience and Challenge

The central characters of our story are the 157 Takhi that now call Khomyn Tal home. This wild population, 96% of which was born in the park, represents a living testament to two decades of conservation effort. They have organized themselves into 15 stable family bands and several bachelor groups, roaming across thousands of hectares in a timeless seasonal dance with the land.

Yet, 2025 was a tough year. While the mares showed strong fertility, with 32 new foals arriving between spring and autumn, the harsh realities of the wild took a heavy toll. A combination of severe drought, which left forage scarce, and increased pressure from wolf packs led to the highest annual mortality rate recorded since reintroduction began. Only 47% of the fragile foals survived their first year. This sobering reality highlighted the delicate balance of the ecosystem and underscored the critical need for continuous, science-led monitoring and adaptive management to help the population navigate natural pressures.

The Park: Gaining a Global Voice and Local Trust

Beyond the herds, KTNP itself stepped onto a world stage. In a landmark achievement, the entire park was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a prestigious recognition of its role in harmonizing conservation with sustainable human development. This status was celebrated with a new signboard and a major training workshop, uniting local herders, government officials, and international experts.

The park's story reached a wider audience than ever before. A poignant documentary, A Day of a Ranger's Life, offered a window into the dedication of the protection team, garnering over 10,000 views. On social media, a growing community of over 4,000 followers engaged with the park's journey. The narrative also reached the next generation through a children's summer school and a specially created comic book, "Od Takhi," planting the seeds of conservation in young minds.
This expanding voice was matched by stronger alliances. KTNP became a founding member and future host of the new Przewalski's Horse Conservation Alliance (PHCA), a global coalition of 11 organizations, positioning the park as a key leader in the species' international recovery.

The Community: Weaving Conservation into Livelihoods
The story of KTNP is inextricably linked with the people who live around it. In 2025, the park deepened its commitment to ensuring conservation supports local lives. Twenty-one women from nearby communities gained new skills, learning to craft soap and bath salts from local resources, turning traditional knowledge into potential enterprise.

This built on existing successes: women's groups exported over 270 felt handicrafts to France, and herders found a market for baby camel wool. Furthermore, 27 herder households received training to develop community-based tourism - identifying sites for pilot ger camps and planning services that allow visitors to experience their culture directly. This approach ensures the park's success is shared, building a constituency of local guardians for the land.

The Foundation: Building a Stronger Institution
Supporting these front-line efforts was a year of significant internal growth. The dedicated team of 15 staff members expanded their expertise through rigorous training in everything from high-tech drone monitoring and data analysis to hospitality and safety protocols. The park's management systems were scrutinized and strengthened through an international effectiveness assessment, ensuring operations meet global best practice.

Financially, the year was one of robust health and strategic investment. With strong support from the Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation and growing revenue from its eco-camp—which saw a 36% increase in tourists—KTNP operated with a remarkable 69% profit margin. These funds were reinvested wisely: into vital conservation research, into new tourist infrastructure like a year-round sanitary facility, and into the community partnerships that form the bedrock of long-term sustainability.

Looking Ahead: The Journey Continues

The path forward is clear. The challenges of high foal mortality and predator conflict call for refined monitoring and habitat management. The opportunities in tourism demand enhanced services and longer visitor stays. The foundational work of building a resilient institution and empowered community must continue.

The story of Khomyn Tal in 2025 is ultimately one of momentum. From the dust of the reintroduction site has risen a recognized Biosphere Reserve, a thriving wild horse population, a model for community partnership, and an institution ready for the future. It is a narrative that proves that with science, partnership, and perseverance, even the most endangered landscapes and species can write a new, hopeful chapter.

COMPONENT 1

CONSERVATION

OUTCOME 1. ESTABLISH A SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATION OF PRZEWALSKI'S HORSES IN KHOMYN TAL NP, CONTRIBUTING TO ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

OUTPUT 1.1 A VIABLE POPULATION OF THE REINTRODUCED PRZEWALSKI'S HORSES IN KTNP IS SAFEGUARDED AND LONG-TERM MONITORING OF TAKHI POPULATION ECOLOGY IS MAINTAINED

OUTPUT 1.2 MANAGEMENT OF KTNP IS EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED THROUGH RESEARCH PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT 1.3 COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS PROMOTED, LEADING TO SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABLE PASTURE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT1.1 A VIABLE POPULATION OF THE REINTRODUCED PRZEWALSKI'S HORSES IN KTNP IS SAFEGUARDED AND LONG-TERM MONITORING OF TAKHI POPULATION ECOLOGY IS MAINTAINED

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the monitoring results for the reintroduced Przewalski's horse (Takhi) population in Khomyn Tal National Park (KTNP).

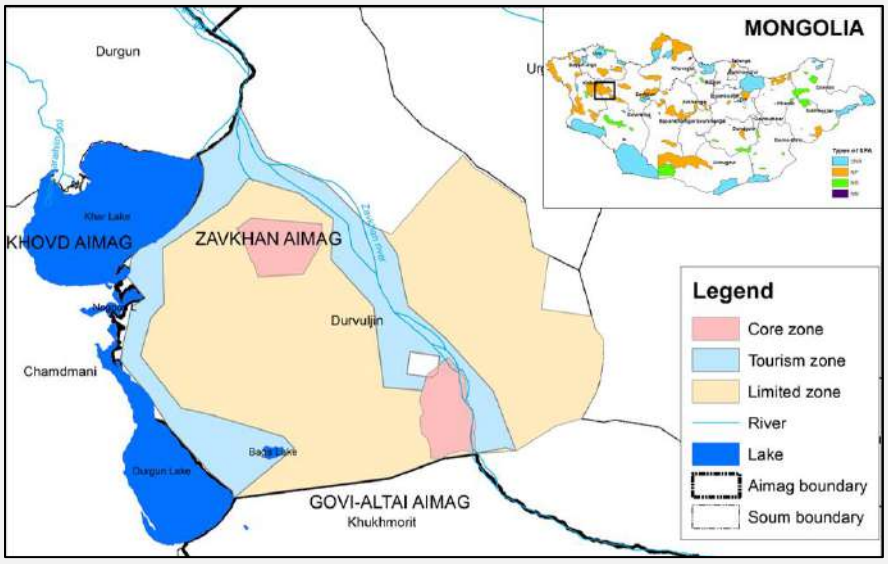
The key findings indicate that while the population is viable and breeding successfully, it faced significant challenges, leading to the lowest recorded annual growth rate since the reintroduction began. The report details population dynamics, breeding success, mortality causes, and behavioral observations, concluding that high foal and adult mortality driven by predation, competition, and poor forage offset strong reproductive output.

The document is structured with sections on Methods, Population Dynamics, Birth & Fertility, Mortality, Demography, Group Composition, Observation data, and Results, supported by tables and figures.

METHODS

Khomyn Tal National Park covers a total area of 441,403.8 ha, of which 14,000 ha has been fenced for the reintroduction and acclimatization of Przewalski's horses (Picture 1). Rangers and researchers conduct daily patrols to monitor Przewalski's horses and record data on harem composition, harem dynamics, location and health condition using the Epicollect5 application.

In addition, one Przewalski's horse harem is selected daily for a one-hour behavioral observation. During this period, intra-harem interactions are recorded based on 31 defined behavioral categories and uploaded to the database.



Picture 1. Map of Khomyn Tal National Park

POPULATION DYNAMICS

As of the end of 2025, the Przewalski's horse (Takhi) population in Khomyn Tal National Park stands at 157 individuals, comprising 86 males and 71 females (see Figure1). This represents a significant milestone: 96% of the current population is now native-born within the park, with only six of the original 26 transported founders still alive.

The 2025 foaling season saw the birth of 32 foals. However, natural pressures resulted in high mortality, with 17 foals (53%) not surviving due to predation, infanticide, and non-viability (see Figure 2).

The population exhibits a stable social structure. 117 individuals (75%) are organized into 15 distinct breeding families. The remaining 40 males (25%) live in 4-5 bachelor groups, which is a typical social arrangement for young and non-breeding stallions (see Figures 7 & 8).

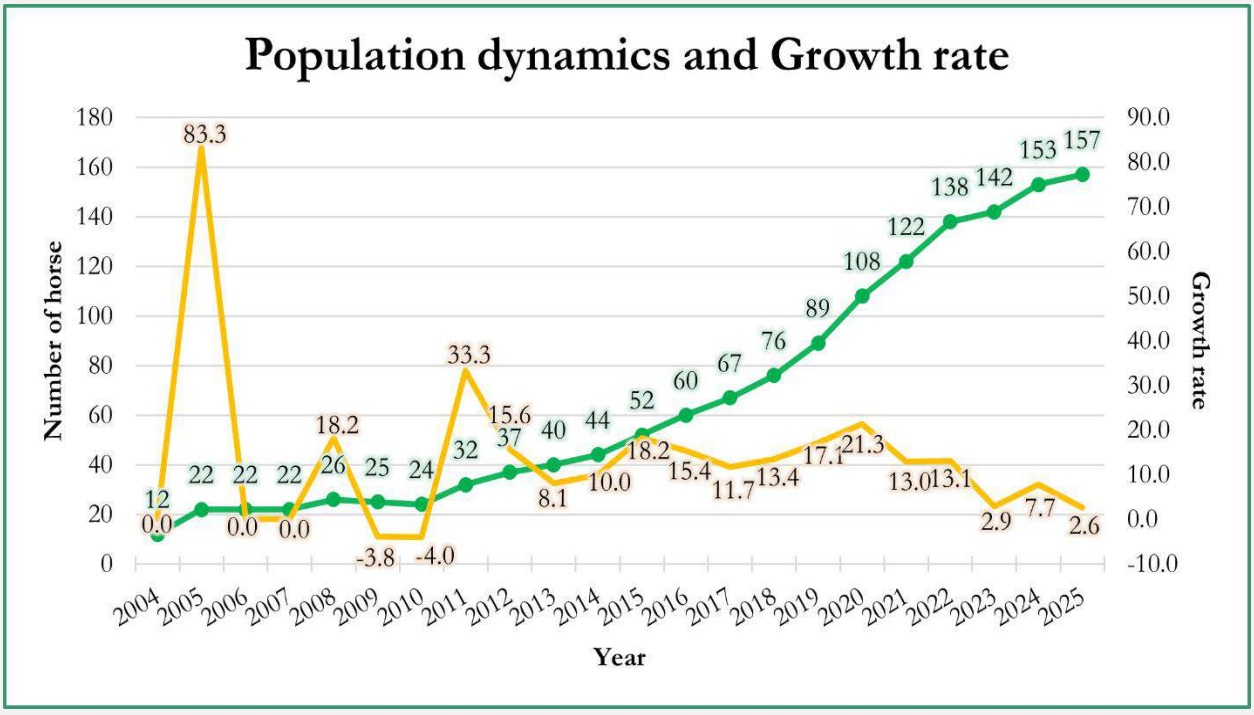


Figure 1. Population dynamics of re-introduced Takhi horses in KTNP

The reintroduction program began with the import of 26 Przewalski's horses (Takhi) to Khomyn Tal in three phases: 2004, 2005, and 2011. This founding group consisted of 10 stallions and 16 mares. Analysis of population trends reveals distinct growth patterns: During years when new individuals were imported, the average annual population growth rate was 15.9% (range: -4% to 83.3%, based on 8 years of data).

In years without imports, the population maintained a lower but stable average growth rate of 12.2% (range: 2.6% to 21.3%, based on 14 years). The year 2025 marked a significant departure from this trend. The recorded population growth rate of 2.6% is the lowest observed since the program's inception and falls well below the long-term average for the period 2012–2025 (see Figure 1).

BIRTH

In the total period of 2006-2024, 233 foals were born (82 females, 113 males and 10 unknown). In 2025, a total of 32 foals were born between the April 22 and September 23, which consisted of 21 males, and 11 females (Table 1). Compared to the average (64.4%) in multiple years (2006 to 2025), the foal survival rate was 46.9% in 2025 (Figure 2).

Table 1. Foals born in 2025

№	Birth date	Sex	Mother name	Father name	Foal's name code
1	2025-04-22	M	Moonrider	Sarni Gerel	Muk
2	2025-04-27	F	Khom	Odoo	Uko25
3	2025-04-30	F	Yanzaga	Zis	Uya25
4	2025-05-05	F	Mandal	Laniakea	Umd25
5	2025-05-05	M	Soon	Paleomix	Apollo
6	2025-05-06	F	Khundan	Odoo	Uus25
7	2025-05-08	F	Angie	Odoo	Ro
8	2025-05-10	F	Sarkhad	Laniakea	Uur25
9	2025-05-11	M	Erhes	Atlas	Charis
10	2025-05-13	M	Suman	Cipro	Unm25
11	2025-05-13	M	Salhi	Sarni Gerel	Ulh25
12	2025-05-16	M	Baganuur	Sarni Gerel	Jorang
13	2025-05-20	M	Zuu	Atlas	Uzu25
14	2025-05-22	M	Sar	Higgs	Yoyo
15	2025-05-22	M	Morla	Sarni Gerel	Strawberry
16	2025-05-23	M	Gylbaa	Odoo	Chela
17	2025-05-29	M	Nine	Yol	Dejusaan
18	2025-06-02	M	Naran	Cipro	Unn25
19	2025-06-04	F	Robin	Laniakea	Astrid
20	2025-06-14	F	Fee	Sarni Gerel	Ufe25
21	2025-06-14	M	Rosetta	Yol	Uro25
22	2025-06-17	M	Kalinka	Odoo	Vuuvuu
23	2025-06-19	M	Ireedui	Laniakea	Uii25
24	2025-07-03	F	Teel	Paleomix	Uti25
25	2025-07-04	F	Bolorsar	Engger	Ubs25
26	2025-07-22	M	Yalgun	Engger	Uyl25
27	2025-08-05	F	Sharga	Sarni Gerel	Omoo
28	2025-08-05	M	Henzee	Uul	Lindy Countryman
29	2025-08-08	M	Shadowfax	Zis	Ufx25
30	2025-08-25	M	Solongo	Num	Debbie
31	2025-09-08	M	Luna	Atlas	Ulu25
32	2025-09-23	M	Khul	Laniakea	Ukl

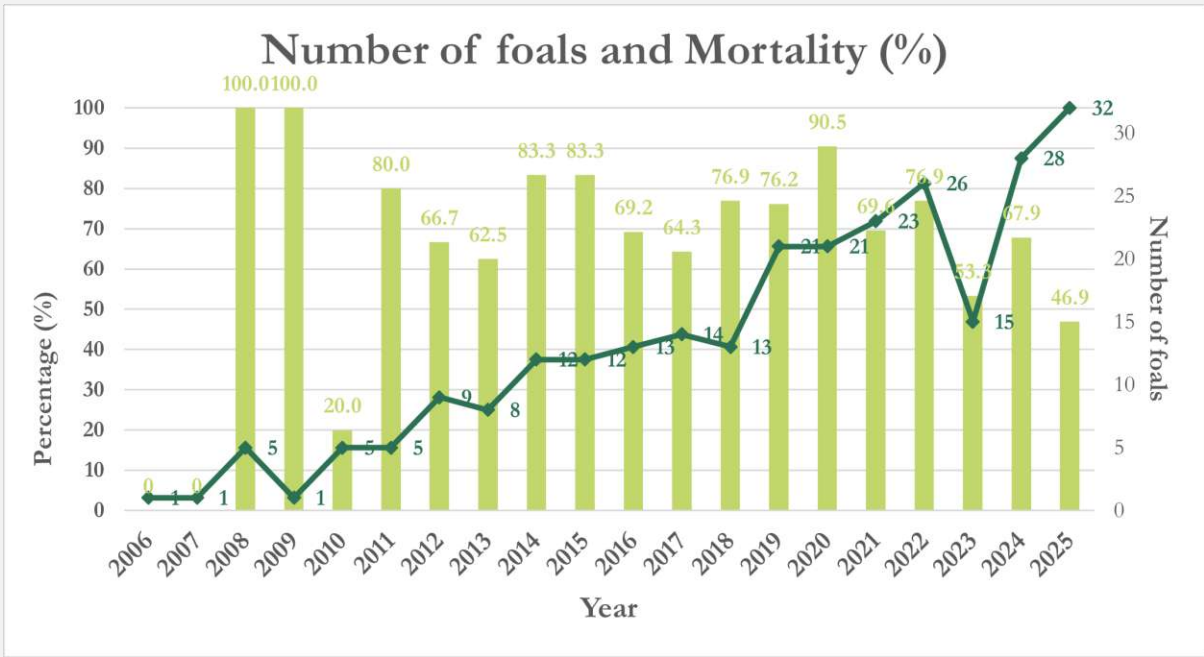


Figure 2. Percentage of survival and Number of born foals

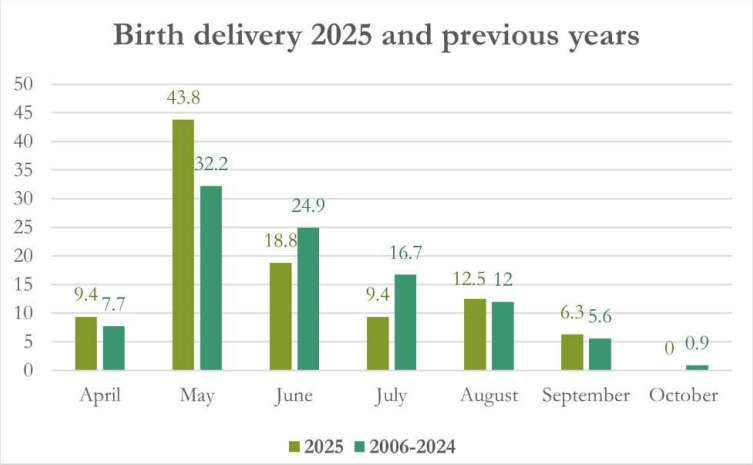


Figure 3. Birth delivery in 2025 and previous years

The foaling season for Przewalski's horses in Khomyn Tal follows a consistent annual pattern. Since the reintroduction program began, most foals have been born during the late spring and summer months of May, June, and July.

Analysis of long-term data shows that this seasonal pattern is stable. Compared to multi-year averages, there has been no significant shift or change in the overall duration of the foaling season (see Figure 3). This consistency suggests that the population's reproductive cycle is well-adapted to the local climatic conditions. In 2025, the foaling season showed a distinct peak in May. Nearly half of all foals (44%) were born during this single month, underscoring May as the primary birthing period for the population this year.

MARE FERTILITY

As fertility rates vary by age, takhi mares were classified into four age groups: three years old, four years old, 5–15 years old, and ≥16 years old. In 2025, for three-year-old mares, only one foaling was recorded, accounting for 14.3% of total births in this age group. Mares aged four contributed 42.9% of total births, which is 13.4% higher than the multi-year average (29.4%). In the most productive age group (5–15 years), 73.0% of mares gave birth, showing a 3.7% increase compared to the post-reintroduction average. In contrast, the birth rate of older mares (≥16 years) was 9.1%, representing a decrease of 5.9% compared to the multi-year average (15.0%) (Table 2). Overall, foaling performance in 2025 was slightly higher than average for mares aged four and 5–15 years, indicating a relatively successful breeding year for these key reproductive age groups.

Table 2. Fertility of mares (2004-2025)

Age	3			4			5-15			Above 16		
Year	Total	Birth		Total	Birth		Total	Birth		Total	Birth	
		n	%		n	%		n	%		n	%
2006	3	1	33.3	3	0	0.0	7	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2007	0	0	0.0	3	1	33.3	10	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2008	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	13	5	38.5	0	0	0.0
2009	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	12	1	8.3	0	0	0.0
2010	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	11	4	36.4	2	1	50.0
2011	3	1	33.3	0	0	0.0	10	3	30.0	2	1	50.0
2012	1	0	0.0	3	2	66.7	13	6	46.2	2	1	50.0
2013	1	1	100.0	1	0	0.0	16	7	43.8	2	0	0.0
2014	2	0	0.0	1	1	100.0	16	10	62.5	4	1	25.0
2015	2	0	0.0	2	2	100.0	14	10	71.4	4	0	0.0
2016	1	0	0.0	2	2	100.0	13	10	76.9	6	1	16.7
2017	2	1	50.0	1	1	100.0	14	12	85.7	6	0	0.0
2018	5	1	20.0	2	2	100.0	14	9	64.3	6	1	16.7
2019	5	3	60.0	5	5	100.0	13	12	92.3	9	1	11.1
2020	3	2	66.7	5	3	60.0	18	15	83.3	9	1	11.1
2021	6	2	33.3	3	0	0.0	23	19	82.6	9	2	22.2
2022	4	1	25.0	6	2	33.3	25	21	84.0	10	2	20.0
2023	10	0	0.0	4	3	75.0	29	11	37.9	10	1	10.0
2024	7	0	0.0	10	6	60.0	30	20	66.7	11	2	18.2
2025	7	1	14.3	7	3	42.9	37	27	73.0	11	1	9.1
Average 2012-2025	26.4			29.4			69.3			15.0		

MORTALITY

The year 2025 saw significant mortality within the Takhi population. By year's end, a total of 28 individuals had been lost, comprising both foals and adults. A historical perspective reveals that since the first foals were born in 2006, 265 foals have been recorded. Of these, 82 have died over the entire program period, with 17 of those losses occurring in 2025 alone (see Figure 4).
The mortality breakdown for 2025 is as follows:
Foals (≤1 year old): 17 individuals.
Takhi (>1 year old): 11 individuals.

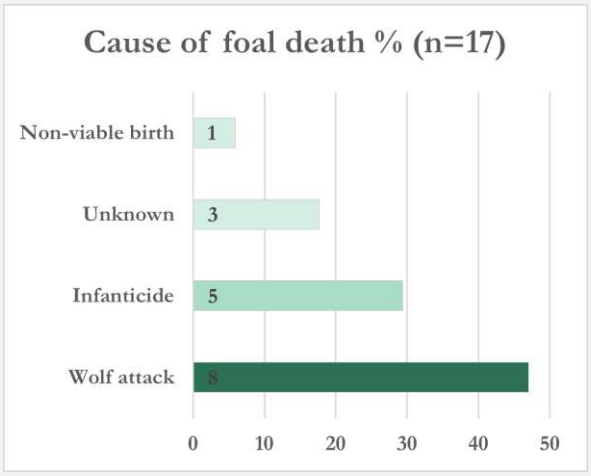


Figure 4. Causes of Foal death in 2025

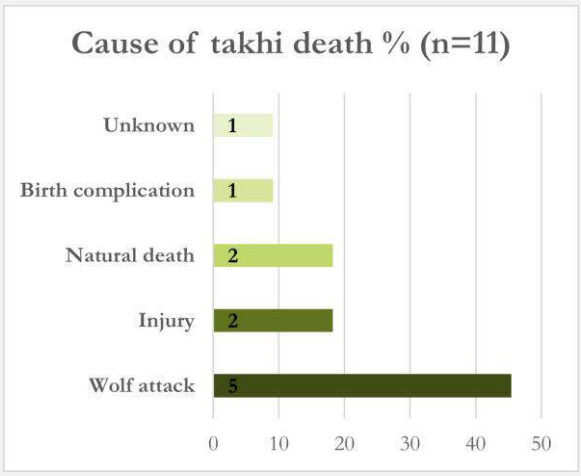


Figure 5. Causes of Takhi death in 2025

This resulted in an overall annual mortality rate of 7.2% for 2025. This rate is notably higher than the long-term multi-year average of 3. 2% (which has ranged from a minimum of 1.5% to a maximum of 15% in previous years), highlighting 2025 as a particularly challenging period for population survival.

Foal and adult takhi mortalities are analyzed separately because they reflect different ecological and biological processes. Foal mortality is strongly influenced by factors such as birth timing, maternal condition, weather extremes, and predation, whereas mortality in takhi older than one year is more closely associated with environmental stress, disease, injuries, and social interactions. Separating these categories allows for a more accurate assessment of population dynamics and management effectiveness.

DEMOGRAPHY

AGE STRUCTURE AND SEX RATIO

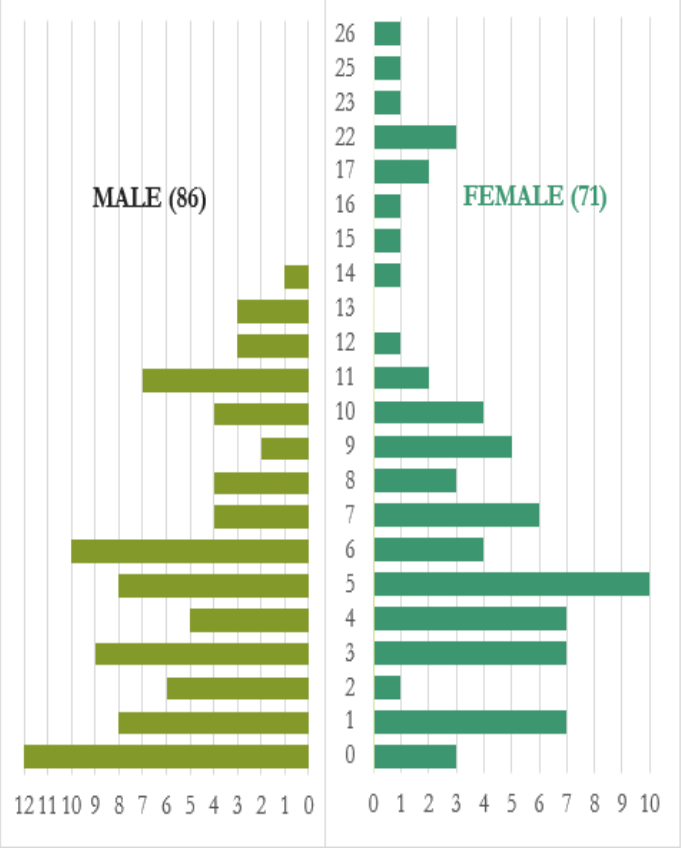


Figure 6. Age and sex structure of the takhi population

This figure illustrates the age structure and sex ratio of the takhi population. Males are shown on the left and females on the right, grouped by age classes. The broad base of the age pyramid indicates a dominance of younger individuals, suggesting that the population is reproductively active and has strong potential for growth in the coming years. The age–sex structure of male takhi indicates that individuals older than 14 years are rarely observed, suggesting a marked increase in mortality after this age. This pattern is likely associated with intense competition for harems, frequent aggressive encounters, and physical exhaustion, all of which increase mortality risk in older males.

This figure illustrates the age structure of bachelor stallions. In takhi, intense competition for harem acquisition typically occurs between 5 and 10 years of age. Accordingly, the dominance of individuals within this age class (60%) suggests that competition for harems is likely to be intense in the current year and may remain so in the coming years. A high proportion of prime-age bachelor stallions may lead to increased aggressive interactions, including frequent fights and harem challenges, potentially elevating injury and mortality risks among males.

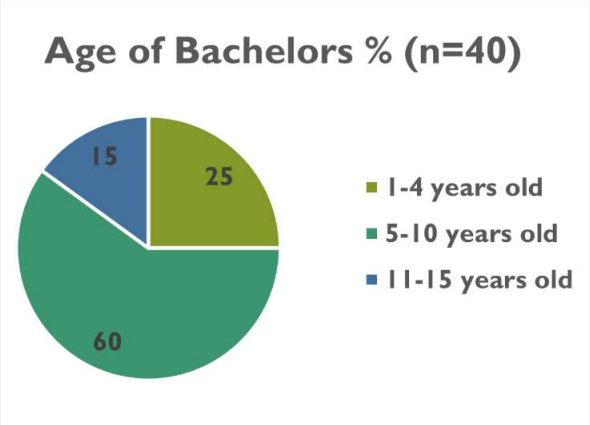


Figure 7. Age of Bachelors

GROUP COMPOSITION

At the end of December 2025, fifteen family groups, each consisting of 4 to 13 individuals, were recorded in Seeriin Nuruu (Figure 8). The largest family group (Odoo) comprised 13 individuals, whereas the smallest groups (Unig and Uul) each consisted of four individuals. Overall, changes in group composition were fewer than in the previous year.

In most groups, mares of reproductive age (4–15 years) predominated, indicating stable reproductive potential within the population. The relatively even distribution of foals and sub-adults (0–3 years) suggests consistent and continuous foaling in recent years.

Larger groups such as Odoo, Sarni Gerel, and Paleomix exhibited a more balanced distribution across age classes, reflecting greater internal stability. In contrast, smaller groups (e.g., Unig, Uul, and Zis) contained fewer young individuals, which may indicate that these groups are newly established or in transitional stages of formation, rather than fully stabilized family units.

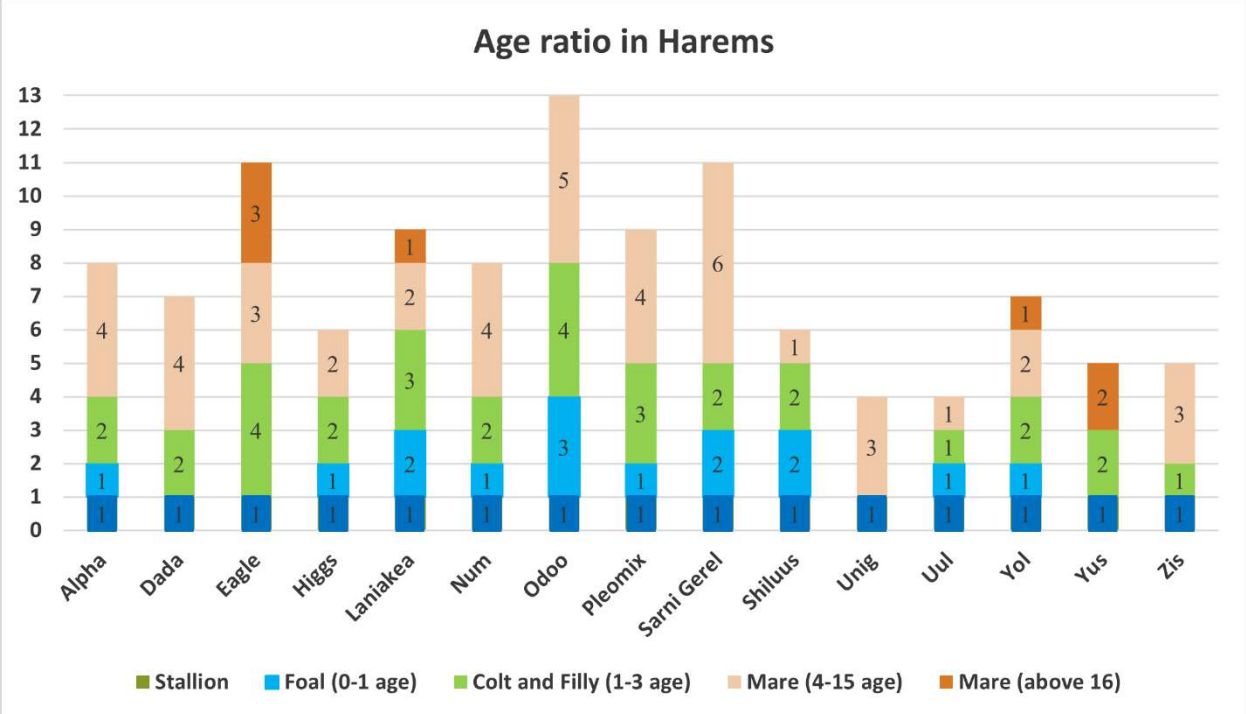


Figure 8. Current number of individuals and their ages in breeding groups

OBSERVATION

Table 4. Observation time by groups

Groups	Daily observation time (hours)
Alpha	17
Corsac	10
Cipro	8
Higgs	5
Laniakea	13
Odoo	9
Paleomix	10
Sarni Gerel	15
Uul	11
Yol	12
Yus	12
Zis	10
Num	11
Bachelor	14
Dada	11
Park	1
Engger	3
Eagle	7
Ulziit	2
Unig	1
Shiluus	1

In 2025, four takhi rangers made 183 hours of field observation collecting behavioral data on selected groups (Table 3 and 4).

Table 3. Observation time

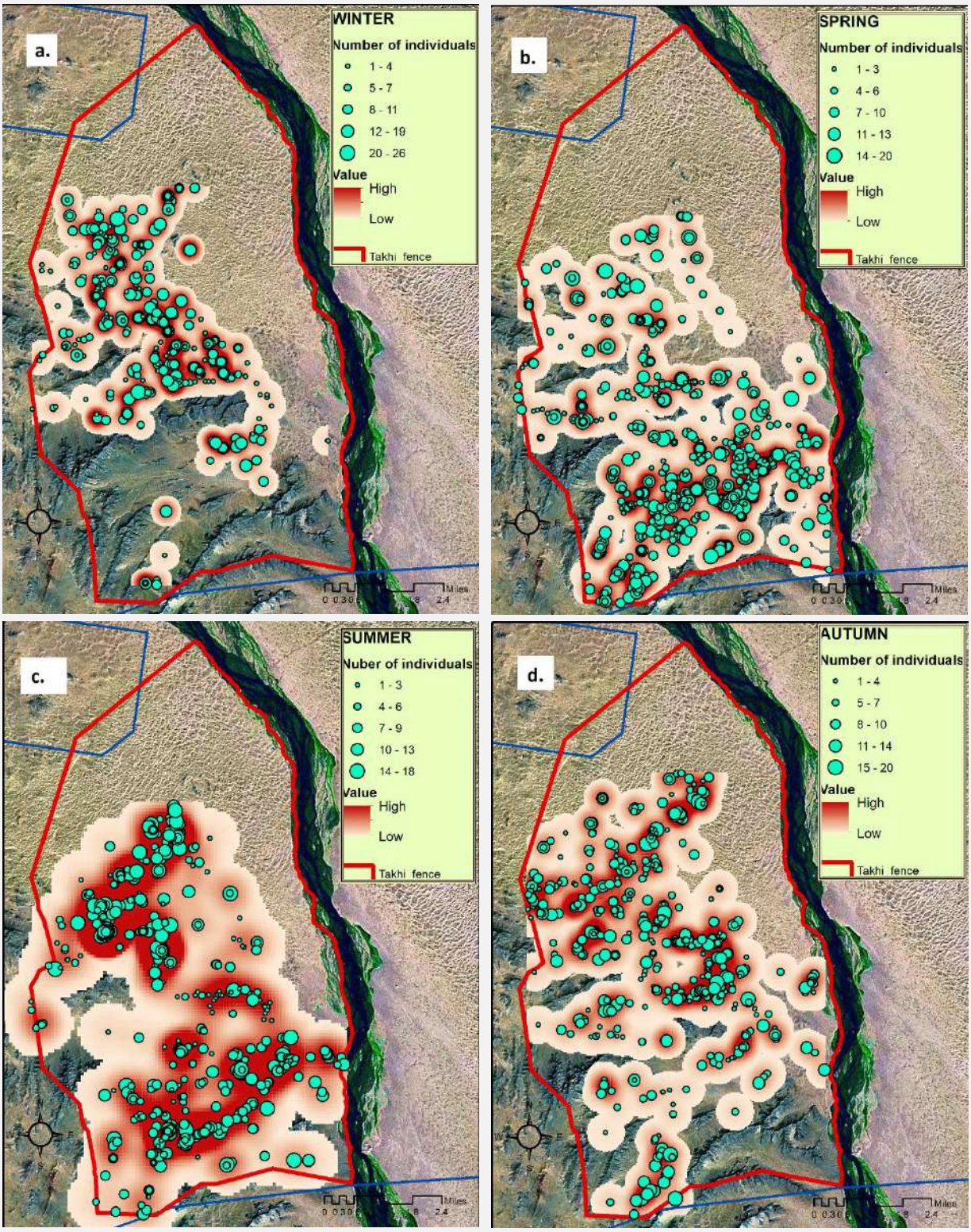
Rangers	One hour observation
U. Altangerel	50
B. Lkhagvadorj	54
I. Myagmarbaatar	32
E. Narangarav	47

HOME RANGE

The seasonal distribution of takhi shows clear spatial patterns associated with forage availability and climatic conditions. During winter (January–February), takhi occupy more restricted areas, particularly wind-exposed ridges and low-snow zones.

Due to cold temperatures and prevailing winds, individuals move northwards toward lower relief areas such as Aragtyn Buurug, where snow covers thinner and forage remains more accessible. In spring (March–May), the distribution expands markedly as fresh, nutrient-rich forage emerges, particularly in the southern part of the area, prompting herds to shift grazing locations. Summer (June–August) represents the widest spatial extent and highest density of use, with core grazing areas concentrated in the southern and central valleys. Autumn (September–November) shows a gradual reduction in range and movement toward wintering areas, indicating transitional behavior as vegetation quality declines. Overall, overlapping seasonal hotspots indicate consistent use of key grazing areas throughout the year.

When examined in terms of spatial extent, the population utilized approximately 6,500–7,000 ha during winter, 8,000–8,500 ha during spring and autumn, and up to around 9,000 ha during summer, the latter representing the largest seasonal range. Seasonal home ranges were estimated using Kernel Density analysis in ArcGIS (Picture 2).



Picture 2. Seasonal distribution of Takhi in KTNP

RESULTS

This year, despite an increase in foaling rates across all age classes of mares, high mortality among foals and adult horses caused fluctuations in population growth.

Factors influencing mortality included:

- Weather conditions
- Predation
- Intraspecific competition
- Forage availability

This year was characterized by poor vegetation growth (based on visual field observations). As a result, some mares appeared to be in relatively low body condition, which may have contributed to reduced foal survival.

In addition, intraspecific competition over harems resulted in one adult takhi death and five foals being killed by stallions during harem-takeover events.

Predation by wolves affected both adults and foals at comparatively high rates this year, suggesting an increase in wolf density in the area.

We hypothesize that the removal of shade shelters may have exacerbated these two processes. During summer, harem groups typically congregated around the shelters, which both reduced harem competition and improved defense against wolf attacks. However, after the shelters were dismantled, most harems ceased to aggregate and instead dispersed to graze in smaller units (1–2 groups), potentially increasing vulnerability to both competition and predation.

FENCE MAINTENANCE

In our ongoing efforts to manage the acclimatization of Przewalski's horses, significant actions have been undertaken to enhance their living conditions in Khomyn Tal National Park

Repair of the Acclimatization Fence: Rangers successfully repaired the damaged sections of the acclimatization fence along the dunes, which had frequently been compromised by domestic animals. This repair is crucial for the protection of the horses and their habitat. In addition, approximately 35 km of fence line was maintained to ensure effective management and monitoring of the acclimatization area.

WEATHER

According to data gathered by the automatic weather station installed on Seeriin Nuruu site within KTNP, the coldest air temperature was recorded in January (-26°C) and warmest in July (24.1°C), reflecting a typical continental climate with marked temperature extremes. The wide gap between monthly minimum, maximum, and mean values highlights a pronounced seasonal pattern (Figure 9).

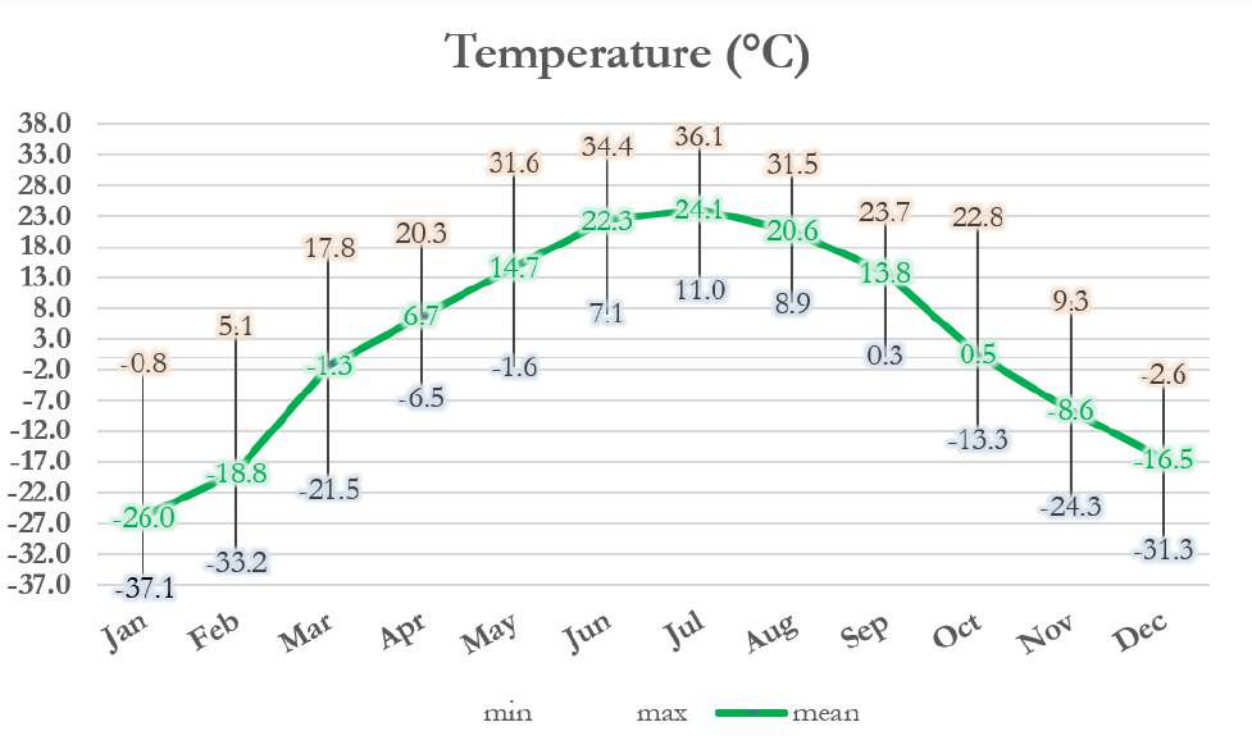


Figure 9. Air temperature around KTNP (2025)

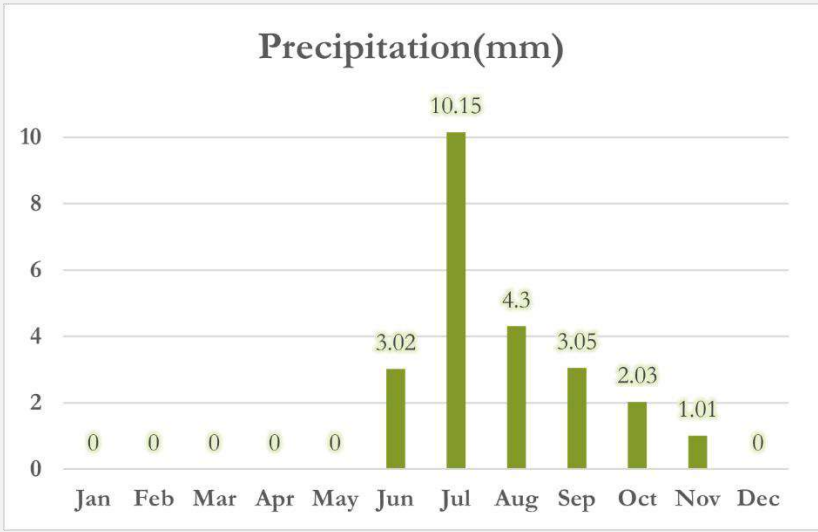


Figure 10. Precipitation (2025)

In the KTNP region, the annual precipitation is relatively low, ranging from 50 to 150 mm per year. In 2025, a total of 23.5 mm of precipitation was recorded. No precipitation occurred during the spring season, followed by a first rainfall in June. The highest precipitation was observed in July (Figure 10).

OUTPUT 1.2 MANAGEMENT OF KTNP IS EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED THROUGH RESEARCH PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RANGER PATROLLING AND WILFLIFE CENSUS IN KTNP

Since 2024, ranger patrols and wildlife censuses have been conducted using the SMART program. Accordingly, in 2025, four scheduled patrols and seven wildlife censuses were carried out across seven designated ranger routes within KTNP. No violations were recorded during ranger patrols this year.

The census results indicated a slight increase in the numbers of Mongolian gazelle and Saiga relative to the previous year, whereas Goitered gazelle showed no notable change and remained stable (Figure 11 and Table 5).

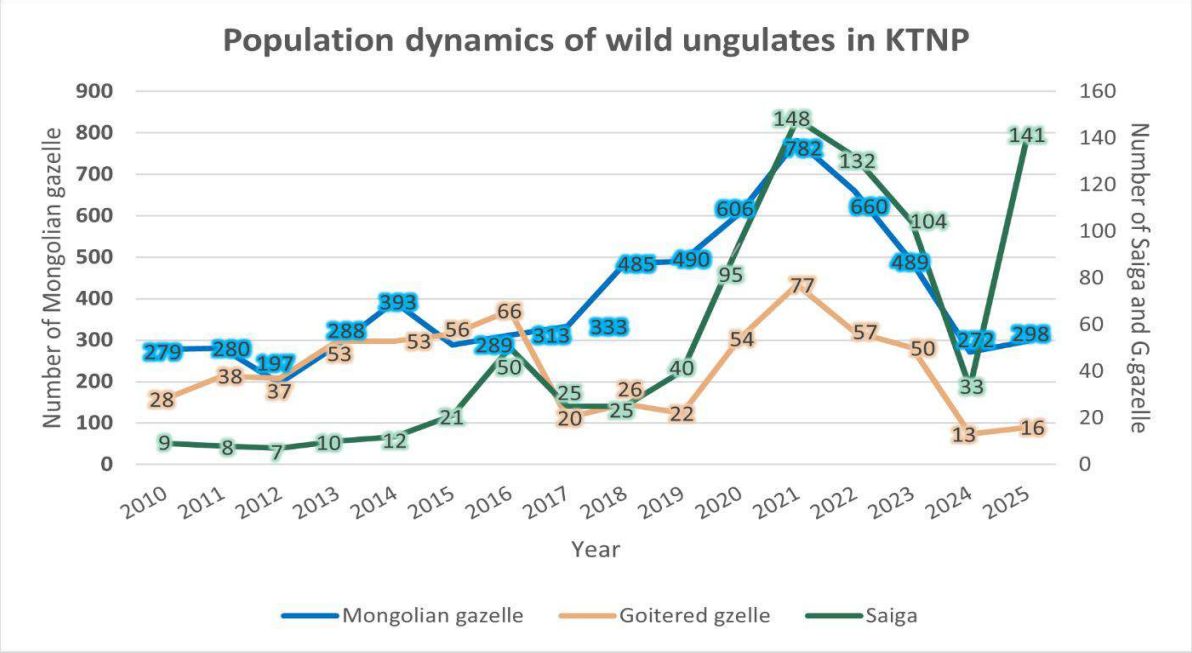
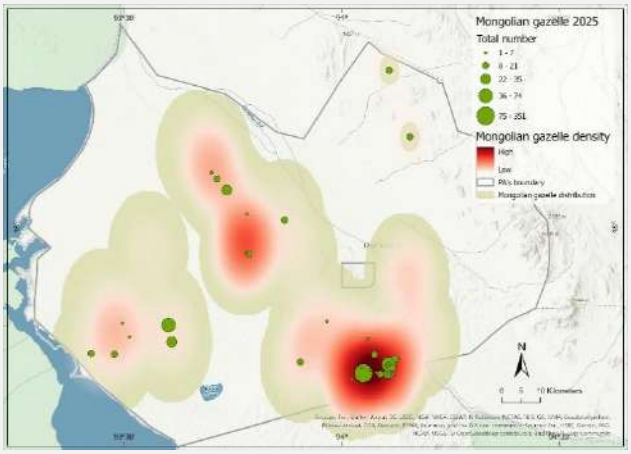
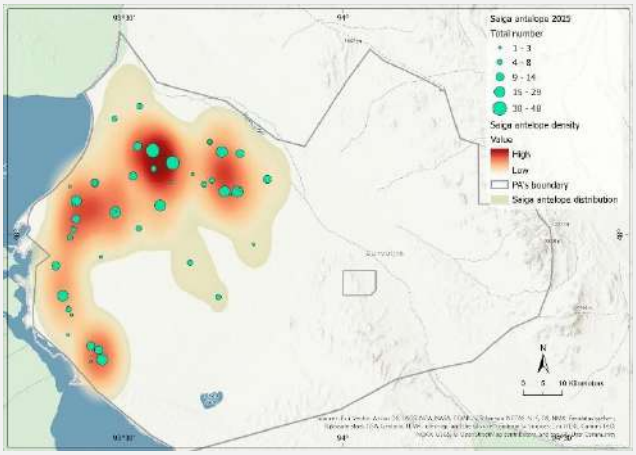


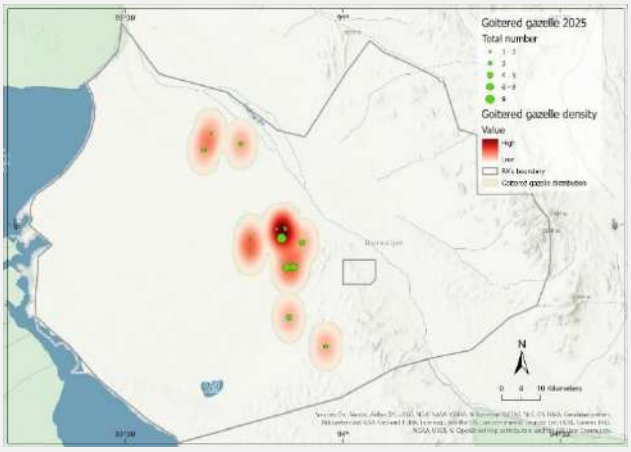
Figure 11. Population dynamics of wild ungulates

Table 5. Number of ungulates in KTNP (2025)

	Season	Date of census	Saiga	Goitered gazelle	Mongolian gazelle	Ibex
1	Spring	2025.04.15	171	19	159	26
2	Summer	2025.07.15	111	12	436	29



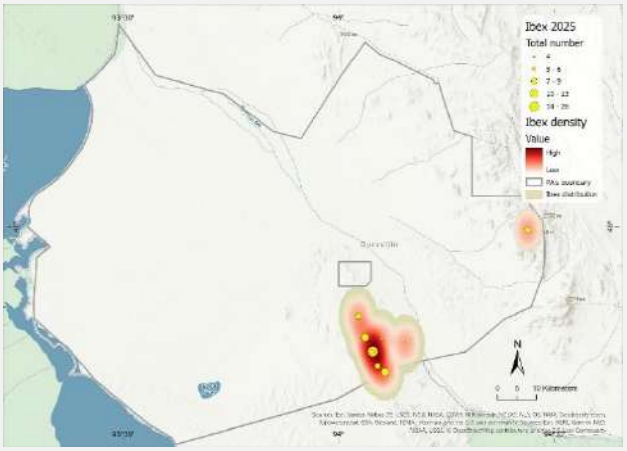




Compared to the 2022 survey:

- The distribution range of Mongolian gazelle increased from 223,443 ha to 235,126 ha, representing a 5% expansion.
- The Saiga antelope range increased from 79,504 ha to 123,452 ha, showing a 55% increase.
- In contrast, the distribution range of the Black-tailed gazelle declined from 58,486 ha to 34,275 ha, indicating a 41% decrease.

In 2025, an average of 28 Siberian ibex were recorded. However, it is known that approximately 50–60 individuals inhabit Seeriin Mountain. This suggests that conducting ibex counts simultaneously with the three steppe ungulate species may not be fully suitable for accurately assessing their abundance.



Picture 3. Distribution of wild ungulates in 2025 (M.gazelle, Saiga, G.gazelle and Ibex)

CAMERA TRAPPING

One of the key findings of the survey was confirming that the **Snow leopard** has established residency in Seer Mountain. Due to limited precipitation in 2025, forage conditions were notably poor during June-August, resulting in Siberian ibex exhibiting reduced body condition and delayed pelage shedding.

In January 2025, snow leopard footprints were observed in the study area, prompting the deployment of three pilot camera traps. By late February, a snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) was photographed, confirming its active presence. This finding led to an expansion of camera trap locations, particularly along mountain ridges inhabited by Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*)—an important prey species for snow leopards.

During the summer, camera traps were deployed at water sources to document water use by Przewalski's horse and other wild mammals and birds, as well as to identify seasonal habitat use and diurnal activity patterns. In total, 20 camera trap stations were established in 2025, providing verified records on species occurrences, distribution, and seasonal activity.

According to the bird guidebook published for the Khomyn Tal NP in 2020, a total of 141 bird species had previously been recorded. Through camera trapping, two additional species previously unrecorded in the guidebook were newly documented within the Khomyn Tal area.

Scientific name: *Monticola saxatilis*
English name: Common rock thrush

Scientific name: *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
English name: White-winged redstart

WOLF SURVEY

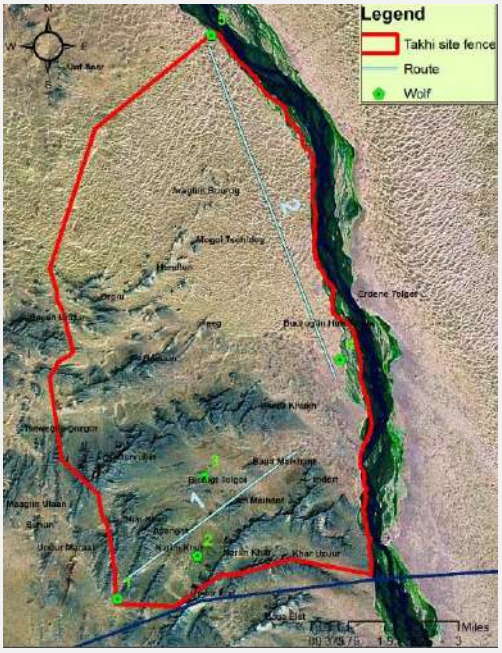
METHOD

The Khomyn Tal National Park covers a total of 411,403.8 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares have been fenced for the purpose of reintroducing the Przewalski's horses.

Within the fenced area, two pathways frequently used by wolves to enter and exit were studied using snow-tracking survey. The first transect extended 7 km through the mountainous part of the fenced area, while the second transect covered 11.7 km along the Zavkhan River and adjacent sand dunes.

In addition, oral accounts were collected from residents living near the Khomyn Tal NP based on the following questions:

1. The number of wolves sighted during the given year.
2. The number and type of livestock lost to wolf predation during the year.
3. The number of wolves hunted, and wolf pups removed during the year.



Picture 4. Locations of footprints recorded along the track-count transect

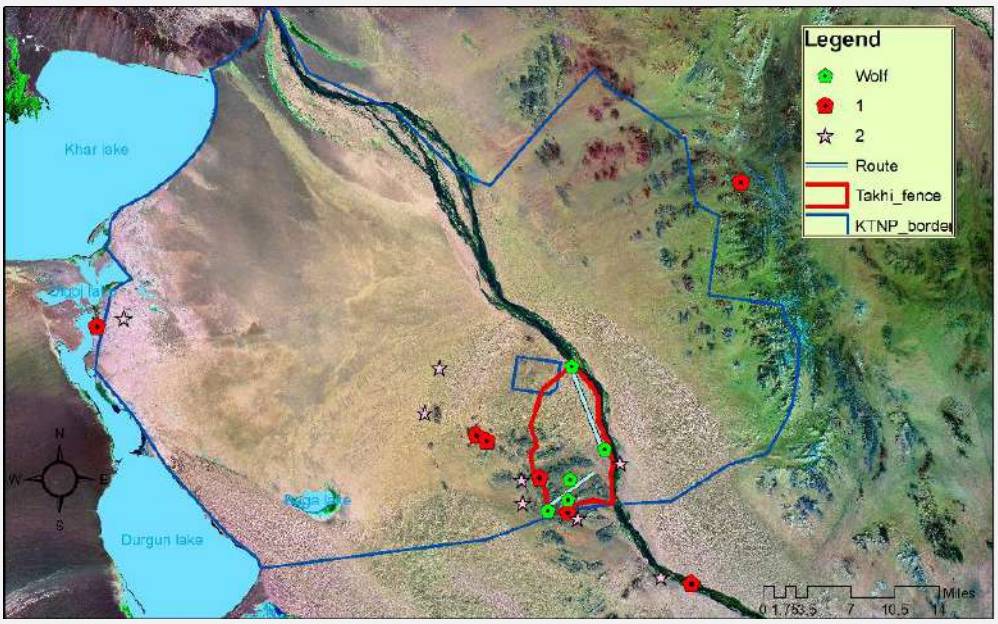
RESULTS

Snow-tracking survey

On the night of 6 November 2025, heavy snowfall occurred around the Seer mountain within the Khomyn Tal NP. Therefore, a survey using snow-tracking was conducted the following morning. Along the first transect, 11 adult wolves were recorded (without duplication). Along the second transect, 4 adult wolves were recorded (without duplication). In total, 15 individuals were counted without duplication across the two transects (Picture 4).

Oral account

1. Based on the first question, seven herders reported a total of 39 wolf (with duplication) sightings in 2025. The locations of these sights are shown in Picture 5.
2. According to oral accounts collected from herders, a total of 128 livestock were killed by wolves in 2025. These incidents occurred during the winter, summer, and autumn seasons. In addition, 13 Przewalski's horses were reported killed by wolves. Herders who winter in the Seer mountain area migrate to spring pastures starting from March, and wolf attacks on horses were reported to increase during this period.
3. A total of 16 wolves were reported to have been hunted in 2025.



Picture 5. Wolf distribution around KTNP

Note: Locations labeled "1" indicate wolf sightings based on Question 1, and locations labeled "2" indicate livestock depredation sites based on Question 2.

Based on the survey results, the Seer Mountain area appears to be the area with highest density of wolves

BAGANUUR LAKE

According to the 2022 survey, 32 springs fed the Lake Baganuur. However, more than 10 of these springs had dried up, resulting in a noticeable decline in the lake's water level. As an efficient protection measure, the local herders with support of KTT have fenced the headwaters of a spring feeding the lake in June 2025.

The spring headwaters were fenced for protection.

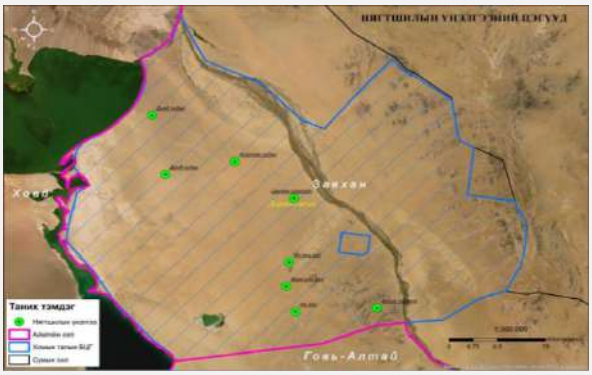
SMALL MAMMAL SURVEY

Fieldwork to assess the species composition of small rodents in the Khomyn Tal NP was conducted from 15 to 18 August 2025, coinciding with the post-breeding period when population density of small mammals typically increases.

METHOD

Based on the ecological characteristics of the species, four complementary methods were employed to capture and identify small mammals alive:

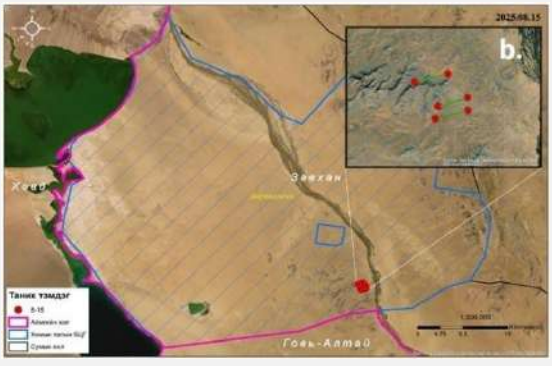
1. Burrow density assessment: For colonial burrowing species such as Mongolian gerbil and midday gerbil voles, population density was estimated by counting active burrow entrances within a randomly selected 1-ha plot. The density was expressed as number of burrows per hectare (burrows/ha).

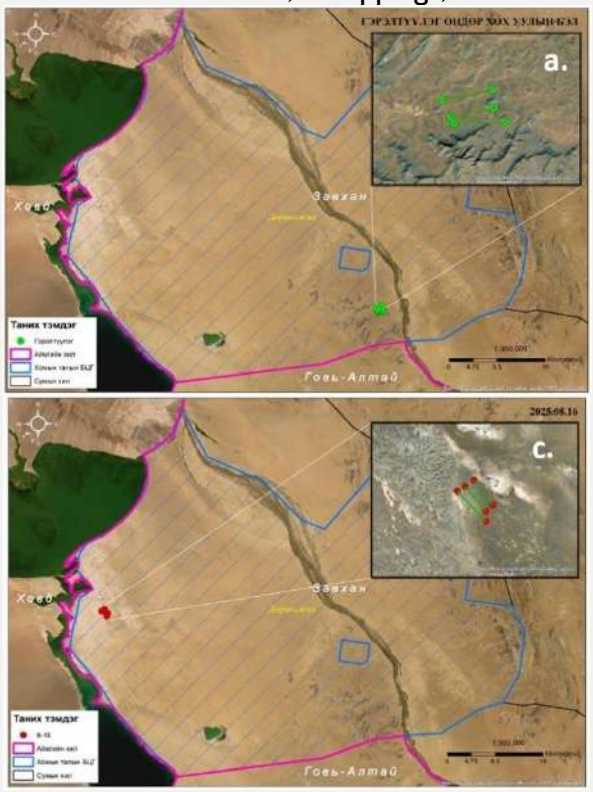


Picture 6. Locations of 1-ha plots used to assess burrow-dwelling species

2. Track and sign survey: Medium-sized small mammals (e.g., hare, pika and squirrel) that are not easily captured by live traps were recorded based on tracks, droppings, or direct observations.

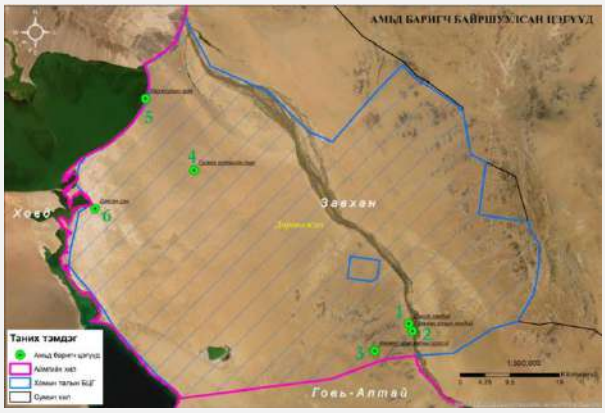
3. Spotlight survey: For solitary species occupying open habitats, nocturnal spotlight surveys were conducted at dusk and during night. Three parallel 1-km transects (each with an effective detection width of ~25 m) were surveyed at a vehicle speed of ~10 km/h. Encountered individuals were captured using sweep nets and identified to species level.





Picture 7. Locations of spotlight transects for nocturnal survey (a-Undur huh, b-around camp, c-Tolgoit)

4. Live-trapping: Sherman large live traps were deployed across six distinct habitat types. A total of 120 traps were arranged in a "T"-shaped configuration according to habitat conditions. A bait mixture consisting of peanut butter, rolled oats, and millet was used. Traps were operated for three consecutive nights. Captured individuals were identified to species, measured for standard morphometric traits, and subsequently released at the capture site.



Picture 8. Location of live-trap stations

RESULTS

Spotlight surveys were conducted over three consecutive nights at three different locations, during which a total of 21 individuals belonging to three species were detected. Live-trapping efforts yielded 24 individuals representing six species. Track surveys confirmed the presence of two species (Tolai hare and Pallas' pika), represented by four individuals. Population density was assessed at nine sites, with the highest burrow density recorded at one plot where seven burrow clusters of Midday gerbil (*Meriones meridianus*) were observed.

Live-trapping indicated that the richest small mammal assemblage occurred in Habitat Type 1 (riparian/riverine habitat near the Zavkhan River), where five species were recorded. In contrast, only two species were captured in both Habitat Types 2 and 6, suggesting relatively depauperate assemblages. The remaining three habitat types representing xeric semi-desert conditions supported only a single small mammal species each.

Functional analysis based on dietary guilds revealed that granivore–insectivores were the dominant group, followed by mixed feeders (green plant material, seeds, and insects). The notably poor vegetation productivity during the last summer, caused by drought conditions, may have led to reduced abundance of strictly herbivorous species.

More than 80% of captures occurred in Habitat Type 1, while the xeric semi-desert habitats accounted for only ~10% of total captures, highlighting a clear habitat preference and niche partitioning among species.

All captured animals were identified to species, measured, and subsequently released at their original capture locations.

TAKHI JOINT-SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The "Takhi-Scientific council meeting" was held at the Hustai National Park on January 25–26, 2025. The conference aims to bring together the three sites involved in the reintroduction of Przewalski's horse each year to present their annual results, exchange views, and receive feedback.

The following presentations were delivered at the meeting:

1. Population dynamics of Przewalski's horse in the Khomyn Tal NP — presented by takhi's biologist E. Narangarav.
2. Vegetation survey in the Khomyn Tal NP — presented by Research Manager L. Bolor-Erdene.
3. Insect survey in the Khomyn Tal NP— presented by Professor U. Aibek (NUM).

OUTPUT 1.3 COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS PROMOTED, LEADING TO SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABLE PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Cleanup works in Khomyn Tal National Park

From September 3–5, the Administration of the Khomyn Tal National park organized a major clean-up campaign in the territory of Onts bag in cooperation with local herders. The operation involved excavating and burying numerous concrete foundations from the abandoned "Khom" station settlement (dating back to the 1990s), cleaning and removing waste around the settlement area and along the lake shore, covering the former landfill site of the station, transporting and disposing of accumulated waste from winter and spring pastures of herder households to designated points, as well as burying and concealing the waste disposal site near the Khooloi bridge using heavy machinery rented for the task. In total, 100-150 tons of solid wastes cleaned up during this campaign.

COMPONENT II

COMMUNICATIONS

OUTCOME 2. TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM AND THE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAIN COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS AT ALL LEVEL

OUTPUT 2.1 PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT KTT AND KTNP TO ENSURE A CONSISTENT, ACCURATE, AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FLOW IS ENHANCED

OUTPUT 2.2 LOCAL CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IS ENHANCED

OUTPUT 2.3 EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN PA MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE STRENGTHENED

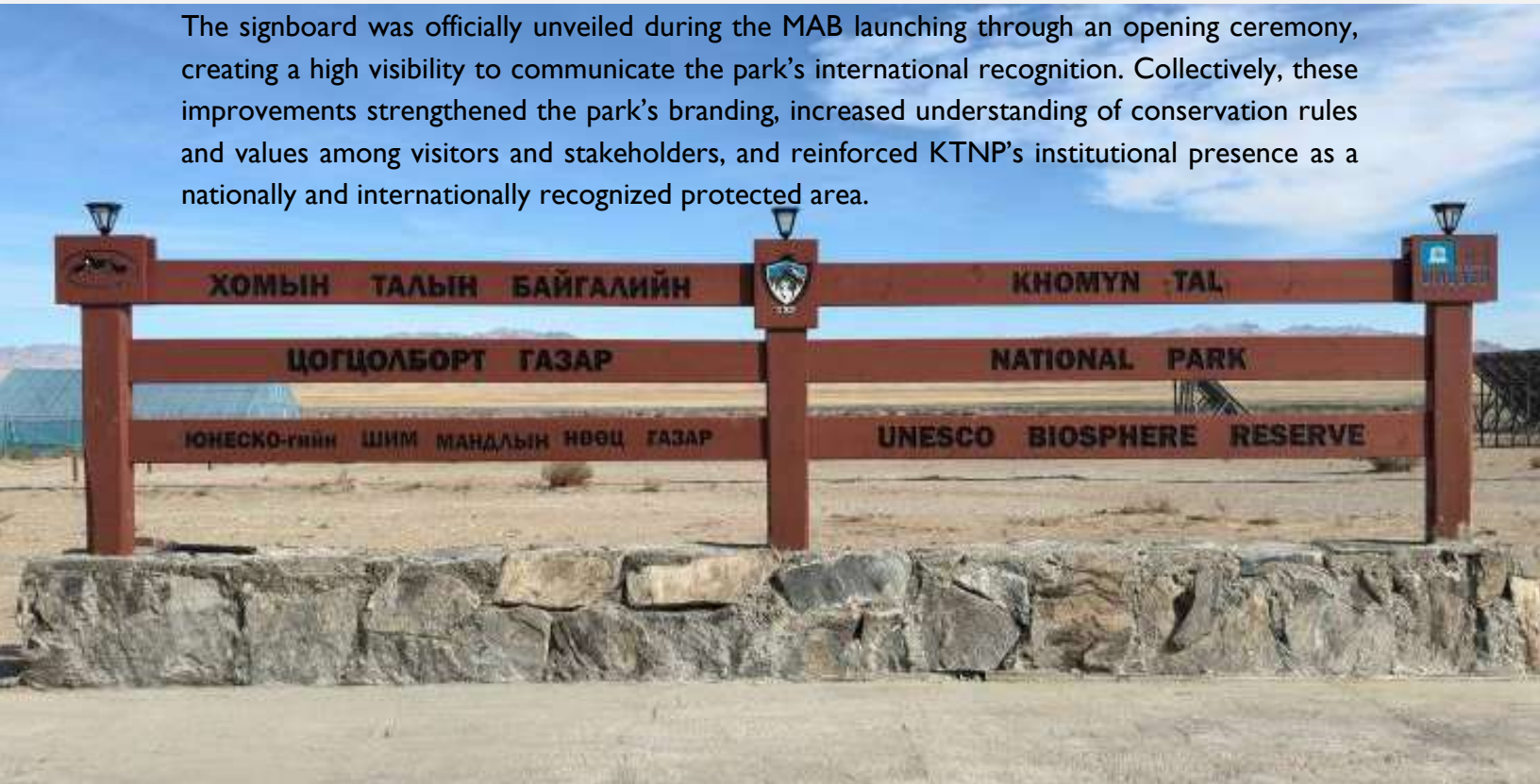
OUTPUT 2.1 PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT KTT AND KTNP TO ENSURE A CONSISTENT, ACCURATE, AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FLOW IS ENHANCED

In line with the Tourism Business Plan and its target-marketing strategy, Khomyn Tal National Park produced a short documentary titled "*A Day of a ranger's life*," featuring Lkhagvadorj Bavuudorj, a ranger who has served in Khomyn Tal for 12 years. The film was developed with the support of GIZ SPACES project and highlights the daily realities of field conservation work, helping bring KTNP's mission. Since its release, the documentary has reached over 10,000 views, demonstrating strong public interest and improved visibility of the park and its conservation efforts.

During the reporting period, the park has improved the demarcation of the boundary of NP, by renewing and upgrading outdoor information boards to strengthen public awareness and support visitor orientation.

Following KTNP's designation as part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, a dedicated "Biosphere Reserve" identity signboard was installed in front of the field office in Seeriin nuruu.

The signboard was officially unveiled during the MAB launching through an opening ceremony, creating a high visibility to communicate the park's international recognition. Collectively, these improvements strengthened the park's branding, increased understanding of conservation rules and values among visitors and stakeholders, and reinforced KTNP's institutional presence as a nationally and internationally recognized protected area.



Facebook (Meta) remained KTNP's primary channel for sharing national park updates and conservation information with the public, while also helping enhance public knowledge about KTNP and KTT's role in protected area management.

In 2025, the KTNP page gained 361 new followers, bringing the total to 4,092. In an environment saturated with digital information, this growth was achieved entirely through organic reach, demonstrating increasing public trust and sustained interest in KTNP's conservation messaging. Contents focused on Takhi conservation, wildlife protection, and public awareness reached a total of 206,800 views and engagements, indicating not only increased visibility but also meaningful audience attention and positive shifts in awareness and attitudes toward conservation efforts.

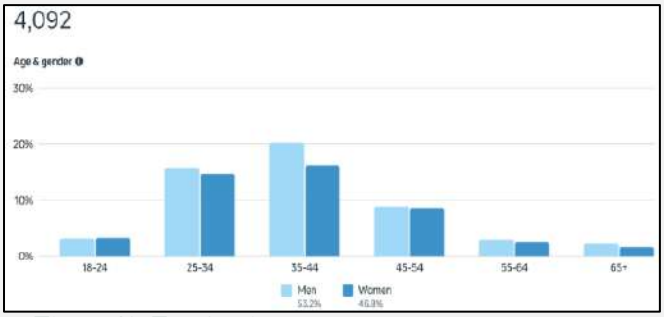


Figure 12. Facebook page

To support this output, KTT commissioned professional photographers to produce high-quality visual documentation of the core conservation values protected within KTNP. This included photographs and video footage capturing key ecosystems, flagship species, ranger patrols, and ongoing conservation activities.

Number of visual materials were systematically integrated into protected area management reports, scientific and monitoring studies, public awareness guides, educational and outreach materials, as well as tourism promotion and interpretation tools.

An award-winning photo '**The Wild Horse in the Gobi**'
Mongolian Landscape Photography of the Year 2025,
National competition

The game "Ecological Chain" improves kids' knowledge on the ecosystem

STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON WILDLIFE AND NATURE CONSERVATION OF THE YOUTH

The annual Children's summer school was successfully organized in 2025 under the theme "*The Importance of Protected Areas*" at Takhi Eco-lodge in Khomyn Tal National Park. The program enhanced children's understanding of ecosystem services, the value of protected areas, and environmentally-sound practice through field learnings on waste management, problem-solving, ecological awareness, teamwork, conservation-oriented attitudes and creativity. The program also fostered field observation skills using the learning app "Baigali". A key outcome was the establishment of the youth group *"Junior Rangers"*, ensuring continued engagement of local children in nature conservation beyond the camp period.

In 2025, senior students from local school in the buffer zone of KTNP were engaged in a study-tour to Khomyn Tal National Park.

As part of scientific knowledge and conservation awareness among the youth, an environmental education initiative was realized through the development of a new comic "Od Takhi" that was inspired by Ms.Enkhjin Sh, an intern who worked for Khomyn Tal National Park.

Sh. Enkhjin: "Before I started working at Khomyn Tal National Park, I knew very little about Takhi. Through my work here, I became motivated to share this knowledge with children and help them better understand the importance of Takhi conservation."

The "Od Takhi" comic book aims to promote environmental education and raise awareness among younger audiences about the importance of protecting endangered species, particularly the Przewalski's horse. The initiative was further supported by UNICEF YES4GREEN programme that granted Ms. Enkhjin to publish the the comic book.

OUTPUT 2.2 ENHANCING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

In 25-28 June, a training on production of locally sourced hand made goods was organized for local women in KTNP. The training aimed at building capacity of the locals to increase their household income through the sustainable use of locally available natural resources. Totally, 21 participants acquired hands-on skills in producing soap from animal fat and bath salts using natural salts extracted from the deposit in Khomyn Tal.

The training improved women's technical and entrepreneurial capacities while promoting sustainable use of renewable resources and eco-friendly production practices. By enabling herder women to generate alternative income from local natural assets, the activity contributes to improved household economic resilience and supports the development of community-based, sustainable tourism in Khomyn Tal National Park.



Building on its proven livelihood approach that supports biodiversity conservation, KTT continued to improve women-led handicraft production and market access in 2025. Through three local women's community group, more than 270 felt items representing 18 different product types were exported to France, generating 7,631,000 MNT (approx. EUR 1,865) income. In addition, 10 local households earned approximately 20.0 million MNT from the export of baby camel wool to French manufacturer *Brun De Vian Tiran*. These initiatives enhanced women's economic participation, diversified household income sources, and reinforced sustainable use of natural resources in support of community-based conservation around Khomyn Tal National Park.

Khomyn Tal National Park was designated as 12th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Mongolia.

OUTPUT 2.3 EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN PA MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE STRENGTHENED


unesco
Man and the Biosphere Programme

MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME

By decision of the International Co-ordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere,

Khomyn Tal
Mongolia

has been designated for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The world's major ecosystem types and landscapes are represented in this Network, which is devoted to conserving biological diversity, promoting research and monitoring, as well as seeking to provide models of sustainable development in the service of humankind.

Participation in the World Network facilitates cooperation and exchanges at the regional and international levels.

DATE OF DESIGNATION
27 September 2025

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

In a landmark achievement for conservation in Mongolia, Khomyn Tal was officially designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in September 2025. This recognition, granted during the 37th session of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) International Co-ordinating Council, encompasses the entire Khomyn Tal National Park territory and its surrounding buffer zone, totaling 618,378 hectares.

This prestigious designation carries significant national and international weight: It integrates Mongolia more deeply into the global conservation community, joining a network that now comprises 759 Biosphere Reserves across 136 countries. It raises Mongolia's total number of Biosphere Reserves to 12, underscoring the country's commitment to protected areas.

The status of a Biosphere Reserve is more than an honor; it is a strategic framework. It strengthens existing partnerships and fosters new collaborations in the critical areas of biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, and community livelihood development. Most importantly, it positions Khomyn Tal National Park as a demonstrated model for harmonizing ecosystem protection with sustainable human development, setting a benchmark for other protected areas to follow.

FOLLOWING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF A UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE, THE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON "UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM" WAS CONDUCTED IN THE KHOMYN TAL NATIONAL PARK.

The event was jointly hosted by the Administration of KTNP, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and the GIZ's SPACES II Project.

The training was attended by more than 60 participants, including representatives from the UNESCO Beijing Office, international delegates from Japan and the Czech Republic, professors from the Mongolian National University of Education, local government officials, and herder community members. The initiative sustained cooperation between park authorities, government agencies, international organizations, and buffer zone residents, while improving shared understanding of biosphere reserve principles, sustainable tourism, and community-based natural resource management.

Stakeholder commitment to co- management of protected areas and sustainable local development was reinforced, contributing to stronger institutional partnerships and local ownership of the biosphere reserve.

As part of the post-designation activities, the unveiling ceremony of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve signboard was conducted, increasing the visibility and public recognition of Khomyn Tal National Park's international status.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF PRZEWALSKI'S HORSE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED, POSITIONING KHOMYN TAL NATIONAL PARK AS A KEY COORDINATION HUB AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL.

In 2025, Przewalski's Horse Conservation Alliance (PHCA) was officially established, connecting 11 organizations across Asia and Europe working on breeding, reintroduction, and management of Przewalski's horse populations in wild and semi-wild conditions. The alliance was officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 12 October 2025.

Building on over 30 years of global conservation efforts, the alliance provides a structured platform for knowledge exchange, harmonized management approaches, and joint problem-solving among reintroduction sites. Further reinforcing Khomyn Tal's leadership role, the biennial PHCA international meeting is planned to be hosted at Khomyn Tal National Park in 2026, demonstrating growing trust, visibility, and long-term commitment to collaborative conservation of the species. As a selected host institution, Khomyn Tal National Park administration takes the coordination role of the PHCA for two years, strengthening its institutional recognition and influence within the international Przewalski's horse conservation community.

At the national level, KTNP has benefited from the cooperation with national institutes and partners through long-term financial and technical assistance given to support protected area management, biodiversity conservation, and eco-tourism development.

During the reporting period, KTNP secured long-term financial support and technical assistance from the Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation under the "Eternal Mongolia" PFP Program, which aims to ensure sustainable financing for biodiversity and protected areas in Mongolia. In parallel, the park worked in close cooperation with the GIZ SPACES II project, KfW BCACC project, applying PA's management, capacity-building support, and practical tools to strengthen governance, operational effectiveness, and sustainability of the KTNP.

COMPONENT III

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

OUTCOME 3. KTT'S OWN INCOME SOURCES SUSTAINED

OUTPUT 3.1 TOURISM BUSINESS PLAN FOR KTNP IS IMPLEMENTED

OUTPUT 3.2 COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM IN KTNP IS PROMOTED

OUTPUT 3.1 IMPLEMENT TOURISM BUSINESS PLAN FOR KTNP

VISITORS

Compared to the previous year, the number of tourists increased by 36% (from 59 to 80), which contributed to an overall 21% increase in income at the Takhi Eco Camp (from 117.6 million MNT to 142.7 million MNT). This result exceeds the 2025 projection by 51%, reflecting the ecolodge's strong performance and growing tourism demand.

However, tourism was not the only contributor to income growth. KTT, in collaboration with partners, organized 7–8 trainings and workshops for 216 participants at Takhi Eco Camp. These events increased camp occupancy, promoted year-round use, diversified income streams, and strengthened the camp's role in conservation capacity building and stakeholder engagement. Consequently, revenue rose due to an increase in visitors and greater institutional use, supporting the financial sustainability of park management and conservation efforts. Monthly data indicate that visitor numbers peaked in August and October. Building on this trend, park management will focus next year on attracting more tourists while enhancing tourism products and services to maximize visitor comfort. By improving facilities and service quality, the Eco Camp aims to extend the average length of stay from one to two nights and sustainably increase tourism-generated revenue.

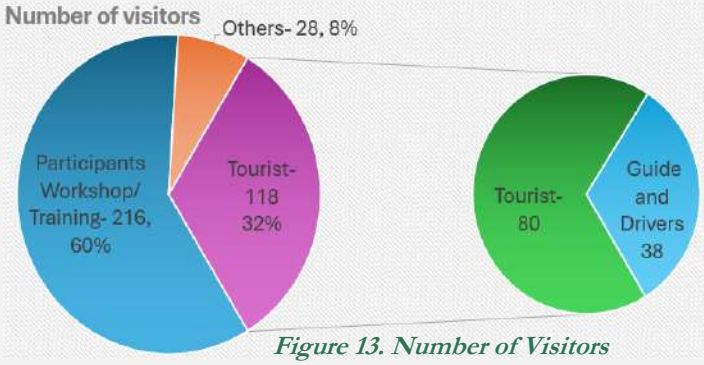


Figure 13. Number of Visitors

Figure 14. Income & tourists' number

CAMP DEVELOPMENT

To enhance visitor comfort and service quality, an 87 m² four-season outdoor sanitary facility was constructed at the Takhi Ecolodge, including six shower rooms and seven toilet cabins, allowing the camp to accommodate larger tourist groups without service limitations. The facility operates as a stand-alone, solar-powered unit with an environmentally sound septic system using advanced bacterial wastewater treatment. In addition, a winter garage with 168m² (14*12m) with capacity for up to 10 vehicles was built to support year-round operations.

Shower and restroom

These developments enhance service standards, increase visitor satisfaction, extend the tourism season, and provide more reliable and diverse tourism revenue to support conservation and park management.

Garage

REVENUE

During this financial year, Takhi lodge hosted a total of 362 visitors and generated MNT 142,694,000 in revenue. The net profit margin reached 69%, reflecting a high level of operational efficiency and representing a 25% increase in net profit compared to the previous year. In addition, this year's revenue was 2.4 times higher than the revenue projections outlined in the Tourism Business Plan 2024-2028.

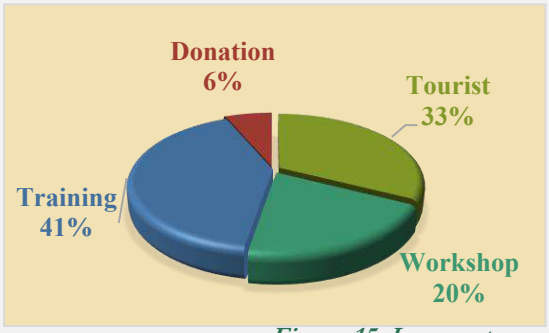


Figure 15. Income types

The revenue structure for 2025 indicates a relatively balanced composition of income sources. 61% of total revenue was generated from training and workshop meetings**,** 33% from tourism services, and the remaining 6% from foal adoption**.**

This revenue composition demonstrates that the organization effectively integrates three core areas of training, tourism, events, meetings resulting in a financially stable and high-profit structure. By further expanding training and seminar activities alongside tourism services, the organization has strong potential to sustain and enhance future revenue growth.

OUTPUT 3.2 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM ACTIVITIES

Through a targeted training delivered in July 2025, 27 herder households from Onts and Tavan Tolgoi baghs surrounding Khomyn Tal National Park strengthened their capacity to engage in community-based tourism (CBT) in line with national service and safety standards, including ger camp operations, horse and camel riding safety, and basic CBT planning. As a result, participating households identified concrete locations and service concepts for pilot ger camps, agreed on joint investment and cooperation models, and expressed increased readiness to engage in standardized, safe, and culturally grounded tourism services aligned with Khomyn Tal National Park's Tourism Business Plan.

COMPONENT IV

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

OUTCOME 4. KTT IS INSTITUTIONALLY STRENGHTENED

OUTPUT 4.1 OPERATION MANAGEMENT OF KTT IS SMOOTHLY FUNCTIONED

OUTPUT4.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IS EFFICIENTLY

OUTPUT 4.1 KTT's OPERATION IS SMOOTHLY FUNCTIONED

With support from the Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation (MNLF), Khomyn Tal National Park took part in the IUCN-WCPA Conservation Effectiveness & Outcomes Task Force pilot assessment, which evaluates management readiness and operational performance in protected areas.

The assessment framework is based on international standards such as the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), the IUCN WCPA Green List Framework, the Conservation Open Standards, and other relevant assessment methodologies. Technical and methodological guidance was provided by the experts from FOS Europe.

Through the assessment, Khomyn Tal National Park systematically evaluated its governance structure, institutional capacity, planning processes, and level of implementation. The findings and recommendations generated from the pilot assessment are being used to improve the Park's management plan, annual workplans, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. This process has established a strong foundation for adaptive management aligned with international best practices and is contributing to enhanced effectiveness and long-term sustainability of conservation efforts at Khomyn Tal National Park.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, Khomyn Tal National Park invested in strengthening staff skills across conservation, communication, law enforcement, monitoring, tourism services, and teamwork.

- **Communication & Outreach:** In January, the Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator completed Environmental Information, Education and Communication (IEEC) training to improve delivery of conservation messages to local communities. Staff also participated in hospitality etiquette and wine service training to enhance guest service standards.

- **Ranger Skills & Safety:** In February, Mr. Myagmarbaatar Idermunkh, the camp manager, completed advanced Occupational Health and Safety training. During the same period, six rangers and a biologist participated in "SMART" training to strengthen their patrol planning and reporting skills. In November, one ranger completed drone operation and aerial photography training, supporting the implementation of modern monitoring techniques.

- **Technical & Scientific Capacity:** In August, Mr. Lhagvadorj Bavuudorj, Protection Manager, completed a 7-day Training of Trainers on Conservation Law Enforcement. Additionally, Ms. Narangarav Enkhjargal attended the International Ecology School at Hustai National Park.

- **Training for PA professionals:** In support of German development agency SES (Senior expert service), KTT organized a 7-days training course on utilization of statistical software-R for professionals from 10 state protected areas in western region of Mongolia. This training improves professionals' skills in data analysis, monitoring, reporting and publication.

- **International Knowledge Exchange:** The Director of KTNP participated in the International Wild Equid Conference (IWEC 2025), held in Kenya in April 2025. The conference brought together global experts and practitioners working on wild equid

research, conservation, and management. Participation in IWEC 2025 strengthened KTNP's exposure to international best practices, facilitated professional networking, and contributed to the application of global knowledge and experience to improve the management and conservation of Przewalski's horse at the national level. In October, a ranger Mr. Altangerel Uuganbayar participated in an international learning visit to Hungary focused on Takhi transportation and best practices.

- **Team Development:** The year concluded with a training for all staff on *"Bringing Success to Your Work"* strengthening teamwork, internal coordination, and organizational effectiveness.

Overall, KTNP's 2025 staff development program demonstrates a deliberate investment in human capital building a capable team equipped with stronger communication skills, improved service standards, enhanced safety practices, advanced technical tools, and strengthened enforcement readiness. This continuous learning approach directly supports KTNP's long-term conservation outcomes and the sustainable development of nature-based tourism in the park.

In 2025, KTT employed 15 full-time staff members, supported by additional personnel for tourism-related activities. Although the organizational structure of KTNP is outlined in the Management Plan, operations during the reporting year were delivered efficiently within the available human resource capacity. Maximizing cost efficiency and operational flexibility, especially considering the seasonal nature of tourism-staff members took on multiple responsibilities and dual roles, ensuring uninterrupted delivery of core functions and services.

Table 6. Employees of KTT in 2025

Name	Position title	Since	Main duty station	Task and responsibilities
Munkhbat Tserendorj	Executive Director	2017	Ulaanbaatar, KTNP	Program coordination, Institutional development
Otgongerel Yanjinsuren	Accountant	2024	Ulaanbaatar, KTNP	Accounting and administration
Zoljargal Ganbold	Operation and public outreach coordinators	2024	Ulaanbaatar, KTNP	Operation, procurement and communication
Enkhjargal Narangarav	Biologist	2024	Ulaanbaatar, KTNP	Coordination of field research, data analysis, planning
Lkhagvadorj Bavuudorj,	Manager, Protection Unit	2015	Ulaanbaatar, KTNP	Law enforcement, patrolling and rangers' monitoring
Idermunkh Myagmarbaatar	Camp manager, Takhi Ranger	2024	Ulaanbaatar, Seer	Camp management, horse observation and monitoring

Altangerel Uuganbayar	Takhi Ranger	2024	Ulaanbaatar, Seer	Horse observation and monitoring
Oyundelger Khurelbaatar	Chef	2020	Ulaanbaatar, Seer	Cooking, restaurant services
Baldan Hanzag	PA ranger, caretaker of the greenhouse	2006	Ulaanbaatar, Seer	Camp services, greenhouse
Namjil Badarch	Housekeeper	2023	Seer Camp	Housekeeping and camp assistance
Narangerel Nadaldorj	PA ranger, Community development assistant	2007	KTNP	Responsible for the central part of KTNP, patrolling in and monitoring wildlife, assist in community development works
Shiirav Oros	PA ranger	2007	KTNP	Responsible for western part of KTNP, patrolling and monitoring wildlife
Gereltsogt Tumenjargal	PA ranger	2024	KTNP	Responsible for north-east part of Zavkhan river, patrolling and monitoring wildlife
Barsbold Suli	PA ranger	2024	KTNP	Responsible for north-west part of Zavkhan river, patrolling and monitoring wildlife
Batamgalan Altangerel	PA ranger	2024	KTNP	Responsible for north-western part of Khomyn Tal NP, patrolling and monitoring wildlife

"Preserving Wilderness, Inspiring Adventure"

Embark on a journey that transcends the ordinary. Discover the enchanting world of the takhi, where every footprint contributes to the conservation of a species on the brink. Your passion for nature meets purpose at Khomyn Tal National Park.

MORE **ABOUT US**

If you would like to learn more about our organization, please contact us at the following address.

Phone
+976 70004480

Email
takhi@ktt.mn

Website
www.takhi.mn

Address
Seoul Business Center-703, 1st khoroo, Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar-13381, MONGOLIA