



## Mongolia

Basic Data in a nutshell	
Area	1,564,116 sq km
Coastline	0 km (landlocked)
Administrative division	21 provinces (aymguud) and 1 municipality
Capital	Ulaanbaatar
Population / habitat density	2,951,786 = 2 habitants / sq km → One of the most sparsely populated countries of the world
Population growth rate	1.486%
Languages	Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> wheat, barley, vegetables, forage crops; sheep, goats, cattle, camels, horses <u>Industries:</u> construction and construction materials; mining (coal, copper, molybdenum, fluorspar, tin, tungsten, and gold); oil; food and beverages; processing of animal products, cashmere and natural fiber manufacturing
Terrain	vast semidesert and desert plains, grassy steppe, mountains in west and southwest; Gobi Desert in south-central
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- extreme continental climate with long, cold winters and short summers, during which most precipitation falls</li> <li>- average temperatures over most of the country are below freezing from November through March and are about freezing in April and October</li> <li>- great diurnal temperature changes</li> </ul>
Natural Resources	oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, fluorspar, gold, silver, iron
No Biodiversity hotspot (according to Conservation International)	
Read more:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIA World Factbook: <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/</a></li> <li>- Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a></li> <li>- Library of Congress/Country Study of Mongolia: <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/mntoc.html">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/mntoc.html</a></li> </ul>	



(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)



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(Source: CIA World Factbook)

### Selected indicators of development status

HDI *)	0.700 (rank 114 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 64.61 years <i>female</i> : 69.48 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	2,107 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	42.65 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	97.8%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	63% / 62%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	7%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	44.6%
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.328

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Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	211,900,000 US\$ / 82.9 US\$
% of ODA in GDP 1990/2005	0.6% / 11.3%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a>	
- UNDP Statistics for Mongolia: <a href="http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_MNG.html">http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_MNG.html</a>	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

\*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

\*\*\*) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



## Biological Diversity in Mongolia is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Vegetation zones of Mongolia:

- **Desert:** predominantly in the south
- **Desert-Steppe:** it stretches from the Great Lakes Depression in the west through the northern Gobi-Altai to Dornogobi in the east
- **Steppe:** extends from the western Great Lakes Depression past Khangai and the middle Khalkha highlands to the steppes of Khentii, Dornogobi and Dornod
- **Forest-Steppe:** lies between the steppe and the taiga, in the Khangai, and Altai mountain chains, including parts of the Orkhon and Selenge river basins and the Khyangan mountains of eastern Mongolia
- **Taiga:** covers areas of the Khovsgol and Khentii mountains, the area north of the Tarbagatai mountains, the upper reaches of the Orkhon Gol, and the Khan Khokhii range; it is the southern edge of the Siberian taiga, the largest continuous forest system in the world
- **Alpine:** High mountains rising above the tree line occur in the Altai, Khangai, Khentii and Khovsgol ranges

three major mountain ranges:

- Altai Mountains
- Hangayn Nuruu
- Hentiyn Nuruu

- It is spanning the southernmost border of the permafrost and the northernmost deserts of Central Asia
- The Mongolian desert ecosystem is of global importance given that it is the least modified part of the Gobi desert
- forest area (2005): 102,500 sq km (6.55% of the national area)
- 22% of the total land area was naturally forested

...the diversity between and within species:

- over 3,000 different species of plants, out of which 845 are medicinal ones and 120 species are food plants
- of 426 different species of birds 108 are transitory birds
- 136 species of mammals
- There are more than 30 million head of domestic livestock
- more than 140 species of trees, shrubs and bushes
- 75 species of fish
- Mongolia is at the convergence of the great Siberian Taiga, the Central Asian steppe and the Central Asian desert, so it is rich in transitional ecosystems that occur nowhere else and has its own unique assemblage of species
- Species endemism is generally low: 9.4% in plants, 7.6% in fish and, for all vertebrates, 0.7%.

## Efforts to protect Mongolian biodiversity:

- Mongolian Law of protected areas (1994): Creation of new protected areas and limitation of land use
- national plans foresee 30% of the national area to be protected until 2030
- 87 protected areas (2003) which cover 14% of the total land area
- 12.18% of total land area (190,520 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II)
- 11 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Ayrag Nuur, Ogii Nuur), 6 biosphere reserves (i.a. Great Gobi, Mongol Daguur) and 2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Uvs Nuur Basin, Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape)



Read more:

- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): [http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4\\_Report\\_Full\\_en.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf)
- Ministry of Environment: <http://gate1.pmis.gov.mn/mne/>
- Third National Report to the CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mn/mn-nr-03-en.pdf>
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAB): <http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=mn>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: [www.gtz.de/biodiversity](http://www.gtz.de/biodiversity)
- WWF Mongolia: <http://www.wwf.mn/>
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: [http://earthtrends.wri.org/country\\_profiles/](http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/)
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Third National Report to the CBD)

## Mongolias' current environmental challenges are:

Overgrazing results in more bare ground and lower species diversity

Population growth

Land degradation as a result of overgrazing and soil erosion and vice versa: the converting of virgin land to agricultural production increased soil erosion from wind and rain

Desertification

Deforestation, including the loss of forest due to forest fires and invasion insect

Regional impacts by copper extraction and oil production

Urban air pollution, critical fresh water supply and waste disposal → the burning of soft coal in power plants and the lack of enforcement of environmental laws severely polluted the air in Ulaanbaatar

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles)



## Cultural diversity in Mongolia is based on...

...different ethnic groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mongol (mostly Khalkha) 94.9%</li> <li>- Turkic (mostly Kazakh) 5%</li> <li>- other (including Chinese and Russian) 0.1%</li> </ul>
...different religions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buddhist Lamaist 50%</li> <li>- Shamanist and Christian 6%</li> <li>- Muslim 4%</li> <li>- none 40%</li> </ul>

Read more:

- Library of Congress/Country Study of Mongolia: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/mntoc.html>

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

<b>Ecological Footprint</b>	3,1 global ha/person
<b>Biocapacity</b>	11,8 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Mongolia ranges on place no. 39 - see bar chart:  
[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?country=MN&indicatorid=13](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=MN&indicatorid=13)

(Source: [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org))