

ILTER Activities and Initiatives of Ecological Data Management in Mongolia

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Abstract

This paper discusses the long term ecological research activities and recent initiatives for a nationwide ecological data management system in Mongolia. Within the ten years since the Government of Mongolia approved the establishment of the Mongolian Long Term Ecological Research Network in 1997, there has been a single designated LTER site in Mongolia, namely Hövsgöl National Park in northern Mongolia. Future research directions at this ILTER site are briefly highlighted. Moreover, a recent national conference of researchers and government officials hosted by the National University of Mongolia emphasized the importance of expanding and re-vitalizing the MLTER Network activities. As a result, the MLTER Network Steering Committee is currently under reconstruction and an overview of this structural change is provided here. It was agreed that a new MLTER Network Steering Committee will serve as a multidisciplinary discussion platform of decision support system for the National Geo-Information Center for Natural Resource Management in Mongolia, a three-year Dutch Government-funded project. The MLTER Network emphasizes the importance of developing an integrated environmental information database in Mongolia as most of the environmental data exist in a scattered form. This provides an exciting collaboration among scientists, data managers, policy-makers and other stakeholders and this paper describes the basic concepts for integrated database used for environmental studies and proper natural resources management in Mongolia.