

**IBA CODE:** MN007**IBA NAME:** ACHIT LAKE**Aimag(s):** BAYAN-OLGII, UVS **Criteria:** A1, A3, A4i **Area:** 98,278 ha**Coordinates:** 49°30'N 90°32'E **Altitude:** 1,435-1,863 m

### Protection status

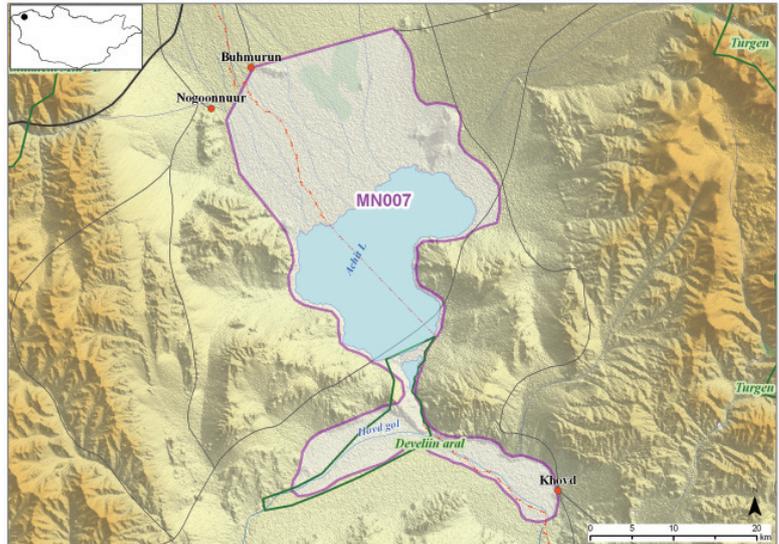
Partially protected by Deevel Aral Nature Reserve

### Site description

Achit Lake is a shallow, tectonic lake, located at the boundary of Uvs and Bayan-Olgii aimags. There are a variety of habitats from semi-desert habitat near the lake, through steppe habitat to meadows. The lake is frozen from November until May. The Tsagaan, Khatuugiin, Bukhmurun and Uliastai rivers and many other streams are tributaries of the lake. Parts of the site (specifically the channel between Achit Lake and the Khovd River and Dewel Island along the Khovd River) are designated as a nature reserve, and most of the site lies within Lake Achit and its surrounding wetlands Ramsar Site. Along the Bukhmurun River basin and delta, households from Nogoos and Bukhmurun practice nomadic animal husbandry during the winter and spring. In winter, people practice small-scale commercial fishing. This is a suitable site for recreation, sport hunting and ecotourism development. Threats to biodiversity include destruction of lakeshore vegetation by livestock, poorly managed tourism and uncontrolled commercial fishing. The water level of the lake has fallen in recent years due to drought.

### Importance for birds

Globally Threatened species using the site comprise Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* (EN), Houbara Bustard



*Chlamydotis undulata* (EN), Pallas's Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucorhynchus* (VU), Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (VU) and Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (VU). The site supports assemblages of species restricted to the Eurasian steppe and desert and Eurasian high montane biomes. The site regularly supports at least 1% of the flyway populations of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* and Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*.

### Importance for other fauna and flora

Several nationally threatened fish species occur at the site, such as Lake Osman *Oreoleuciscus angusticephalus*, Small Osman *O. humilis* and Mongolian Grayling *Thymallus revirostris*. In the 1970s, Mongolian Beaver *Castor fiber birulai* was successfully introduced into the waters of Khovd River and now inhabits Dewel Island.



Photo: N. Tseveenmyadag