

IBA CODE: MN046

IBA NAME: GOBI GURVAN SAIKHAN MOUNTAIN

Aimags(s): OMNOGOBI **Criteria:** A1, A2, A3 **Area:** 544,794 ha

Coordinates: 43°45'N 102°55'E **Altitude:** 1,000-2,835 m

Protection status

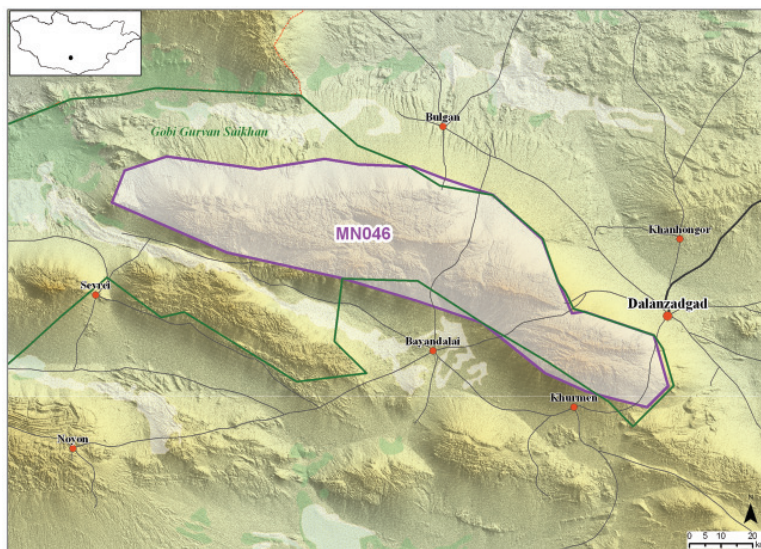
Fully protected by Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park

Site description

The site is composed of mountainous areas in the eastern part of Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park. The national park is an area of natural beauty and an invaluable natural and cultural resource. The site is characterized as a high upland (around 1,000 m in elevation) with dry stream beds, punctuated by mountain ranges rising to 2,835 m, mountain massifs, hummocks and rocky outcrops. The site plays an important role in protecting the biodiversity of the region. Currently, the national park is used by over 1,000 herding households and 200,000 to 300,000 head of livestock. Controlling livestock grazing is difficult because of political and social constraints, but the park administration has started adopting a participatory approach towards management planning with local herders. Apart from a few tourist camps and one small natural history museum, there are no permanent structures within the park. Illegal and unregulated mining, livestock grazing and uncontrolled tourism are potential threats to the site.

Importance for birds

Globally Threatened bird species found at the site comprise Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (EN), Lesser Kestrel *F. naumanni* (VU) and White-throated Bushchat



Saxicola insignis (VU). The Near Threatened Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* also occurs. Nationally threatened species found at the site include Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* and Mongolian Accentor *Prunella koslowi*, a restricted-range species. The site also supports species restricted to the Eurasian high montane (alpine and Tibetan) biome, such as Altai Snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus*.

Importance for other fauna and flora

Several mammal species of conservation concern survive at the site, including Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica*, Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia* (EN), Argali *Ovis ammon* (NT), Eurasian Lynx *Lynx lynx*, Pallas's Cat *Felis manul* (NT) and Stone Marten *Martes foina*.



Photo: B.Nyambayar