



## COUNTRY PROFILE

# MONGOLIA

### Mongolia National Context for SCP and Connection to the Global Agenda

Mongolia has presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2019 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) as part of its commitment to Agenda 2030. Mongolia has also participated in the UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (UN-PAGE) since 2013. This eventually resulted in the Action Plan for implementation of the National Green Development Policy (NGDP) in 2016 and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Vision (SDV) 2030. In addition, the SWITCH-Asia Grants Programme is currently implementing six projects focusing on: energy efficiency in the housing

sector, sustainable consumption and production in the textiles and leather sector, waste management and plastics, and supporting agri-food and beverage MSMEs and retailers in adopting circular economy practices.

#### CHALLENGES

- Lack of continued mainstreaming in other development policies has hindered effective implementation of SCP-related policies.
- Mongolia's wealth in minerals and metal ores has resulted in the growth of its national economy being linked to the unsustainable extractive sector, putting pressure on the country to find more sustainable industries.
- Resource efficiency is among the region's lowest with 17 kilograms per USD versus a regional average of 3 kilograms per USD.
- Public awareness of both environmental and financial advantages of resource and energy efficient improvements remains low while household access to finance also makes adoption of new technology difficult.

#### PRIORITIES

In addition to responding to the challenges, there are key sectors and activities that will promote overall effectiveness of SCP efforts and the long-term success of the SDG implementation including:

- Mongolia's efficient use and sustainable management of natural resources has been recognized as a priority, especially as it relates to scarce resources such as water, which also faces pollution threats from intensive industrialization and mining.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency, particularly through the adoption of new technology, are important as industry expands and energy use increases, which will also have an effect on emissions.
- Waste management improvements and waste reduction are both the objectives of Mongolia's National Development Policy based on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Sustainable and intensification agriculture practices are a national priority as modern, efficient food and agricultural systems can substantially increase production and competitiveness, resulting in improved rural livelihoods and long-term sustainability.

- Sustainable tourism has become increasingly important as Mongolia's tourism industry develops and has become clear that products and services that meet higher environmental standards improve its capacity to welcome tourists.
- In addition to other benefits, the NGDP determined Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) to be an effective economic instrument to achieve green development along with other instruments such as tax and incentives.
- Other priorities include Green urban building, manufacturing and eco-labelling.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- SWITCH-Asia SCP Facility can facilitate policy dialogues within and between the Mongolian Government SCP-related bodies as well as organisations from civil society, academia and the private sector.
- Providing technical assistance to Mongolia on SCP policy development and concentrating on key priorities such as sustainable housing, low carbon and less resource intensive production systems, alternative energy and heat supply, which will benefit from support in awareness raising, eco-innovation, sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling.
- Seeking innovative finance models to support adoption of energy efficient technologies among households and industry will help move Mongolia away from unsustainable energy sources.



Ongoing

**SUSTAINABLE YAK LEATHER (SYL)**

Capacity building to the Mongolian vegetable tanned yak leather cluster on bio-leather

Theme: Textiles and Leather



Ongoing

**SWITCH-OFF AIR POLLUTION IN MONGOLIA'S CITIES (SOAP)**

Promoting the transition to a low carbon housing sector

Theme: Housing and Buildings



Ongoing

**SWITCHING ON THE GREEN ECONOMY (SOGE)**

Supporting agri-food and beverage MSMEs and retailers in adopting circular economy practices

Theme: Agri-food



Ongoing

**3R4UB**

The 3Rs for a sustainable use of natural resources in Ulaan Bator

Theme: Waste Management



Ongoing

**SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC RECYCLING IN MONGOLIA**

Promoting SCP and Improving Waste Management

Theme: Plastics, Waste Management



Ongoing

**STeP EcoLab**

Sustainable Textile Production and EcoLabelling in Mongolia

Theme: Textiles and Leather



Completed

**SWITCH OFF AIR POLLUTION**

Energy efficiency advisory and financial intermediation for sustainable housing

Theme: Housing and Buildings



Completed

**RECYCLE BUILDING MATERIALS**

Improving resource-efficiency and cleaner production in the Mongolian construction sector

Theme: Housing and Buildings



Completed

**GREENER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Supporting a greener and more energy efficient construction industry in Mongolia

Theme: Housing and Buildings



Completed

**GREEN PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT AND LABELLING**

Better products and improved labels green Mongolia's market

Theme: Multi-industry



Completed

**SHEEP WOOL FOR BUILDING MATERIAL (SWBM)**

Turning sheep wool into environmentally friendly building material

Theme: Housing and Buildings

