



# NEWSLETTER

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Dear friend of Mongol Ecology Center, We are delighted to greet you through the 6th issue of our newsletter. With this issue, we at Mongol Ecology Center (MEC) and Lake Hovsgol Conservancy (LHC) are sharing our key actions and activities in summer of 2015. For more information please visit our websites and contact us via address below.

## EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS' VISIT TO PROTECTED AREAS OF HOVSGOL

In partnership with the Global Nature Fund, MEC hosted a group of eight journalists from Germany, Spain, Italy, Hungary and Switzerland from June 16-27 in Hatgal and Ulaan Uul. The specific interest of this group was focused on local people and how they perceived the socio-economic and ecological situation in the region. During the trip, the journalists met with national park managers, staff and rangers, local governments, ger camp operators, herders' families, craftsmen and other local residents. For articles and TV coverage, please check the multimedia section (Media Tour) of our website.



## RALLY FOR RANGERS 2015

After a successful completion of its 2014 Rally for Rangers, the MEC was encouraged to continue the campaign into 2015. The goal again was to raise awareness about Hovsgol and raise enough money to purchase 20 more motorcycles. By July 18, the MEC had recruited enough volunteers to deliver all the 20 motorcycles to

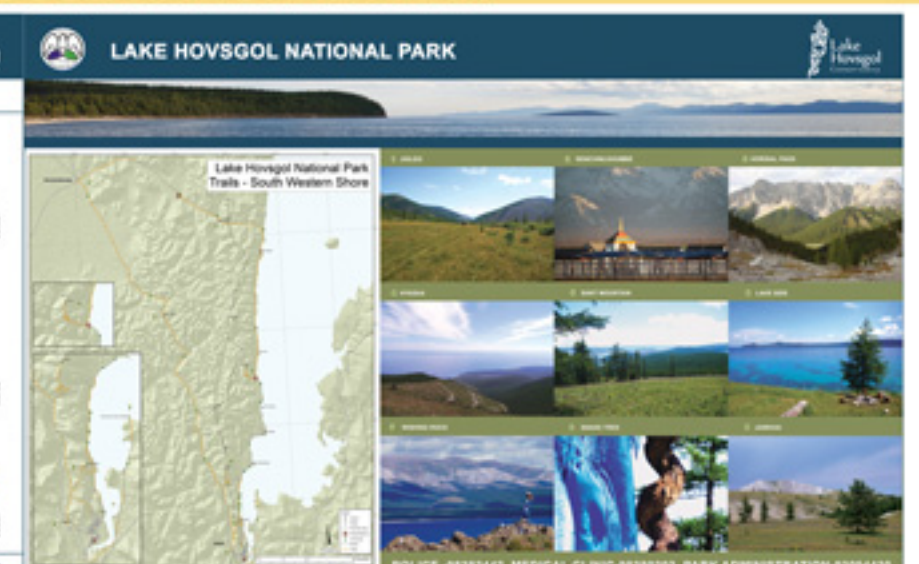
the parks. Within the last 2 years, then, the MEC has equipped 35 rangers with reliable transportation and gear, allowing them to cover and protect the Hovsgol ecosystem at large. All the motorcycles were designed for the rangers and imported directly from Japan.



## TRAIL SYSTEM, MAPS AND COMMON BIRD BROCHURES FOR LAKE HOVSGOL NATIONAL PARK

Following the 2014 field season, a first draft of a trail map was produced using ArcView GIS System platforms. In addition to marking more than 400km of horseback and hiking trails, the map also denoted the location of park ranger stations, major villages and roads, the park boundary, campsites, and other important geographical features. During 2015 this trail map and the data collected in 2014, was put to immediate use. The map was put on display as part of a large interpretive panel at the Visitor Center.

During this last summer, the MEC trail crew mapped an additional 250kms of trails in the parks. A brief narrative description of each trail has been drafted, and the 2014 map was updated accordingly. A new map will be printed along with the narrative



descriptions in time for the 2016 tourism season. At the same time, a Trail System Sign Plan was prepared to guide park sign production. Using templates from the interpretive panels designed

in 2014, the MEC has published trail maps and common bird brochures for Lake Hovsgol National Park, and 1000 copies of these foldouts were distributed in English and Mongolian at the park Visitor Center.

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER PARKS RELATIONSHIP WITH YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, USA

On July 18, 2015, Lake Hovsgol National Park, Horidal Saridag Strictly Protected Area, Tengis Shishgid National Park, and Ulaan Taiga Strictly Protected Area became "Sister Parks" with Yosemite National Park in the United States. Tom Medema, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Yosemite National Park, and Director J. Tumursukh, of the Ulaan Taiga Administration, and Director L. Davaa-bayar, of Lake Hovsgol National Park, signed the official sister park arrangement. The signing ceremony was held at the foothills of Horidal Saridag Mountains.

U.S. Ambassador Piper Campbell and Vice Governor

of Hovsgol Aimag Ch. Ochirkhuyag also attended the signing ceremony.

The arrangement covers areas related to resource management, interpretation & education, visitor services, visitor and resource protection, in-park transportation, and the overall enhancement of each park's operational capacity.

Throughout this process, the MEC played a key role in facilitating and developing this relationship, and in bringing together all the parties to finalize and sign the agreements.



## INSTALLATION FOR PARK ENTRANCE SIGNS AND INTERPRETATION PANELS

To commemorate the establishment of Sister Park Arrangement, Yosemite National Park and Mongol Ecology Center donated Lake Hovsgol National Park Entrance Sign, a Visitor Center sign, and 3 Road Signs. The signs were designed and fabricated at the Yosemite Sign Shop at the Yosemite National Park. Furthermore, the MEC designed, printed, fabricated and installed 6 interpretive panels in English and Mongolian just outside of the park's Visitor Center.



## JUNIOR RANGER SUMMER CAMP



The MEC organized a Junior Ranger Summer Camp in 2015, to continue park education for select youth over a 2 week period, July 27-August 10. All 18 Junior Rangers from Hatgal village who had enrolled in the after school program were to participate in this summer camp. Activities at the camp were specially devised to enhance each child's

academic, leadership, and communication skills. The MEC also helped expand their knowledge of national parks around the world, while building up essential skills that would prepare them to become responsible leaders of their communities and our national parks. The outdoors curriculum was led by MEC staff instructors, a Peace Corp volunteer, and

an Eagle Scout Leader from the United States. The results of this summer-camp program were almost immediate: several of the Junior Rangers went out to monitor the lake, and encountered and then reported illegal fishing activity in the park to responsible park rangers.

## IN SEARCH OF ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHS WITH THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY



Ansel Adams (1902-1984) is the most famous landscape photographer known around the world. He is known for his black and white iconic photographs of national parks and landscapes of America which continue to generate support for

the national parks. Inspired by the Ansel Adams images and to raise awareness of our own national parks, MEC hosted the Ansel Adams Gallery and photographers from August 10-24 in Hovsgol. The photographers worked in Lake Hovsgol National

Park and Horidal Saridag Strictly Protected Area in search of iconic images of the region. The Ansel Adams Gallery, photographers and the MEC are working on an exhibit and publications.