

IBA CODE: MN048

IBA NAME: GALBA GOBI

Aimag(s): OMNOGOBI **Criteria:** A1, A3 **Area:** 828,328 ha

Coordinates: 43°05'N 107°40'E **Altitude:** 800-1,000 m

Protection status

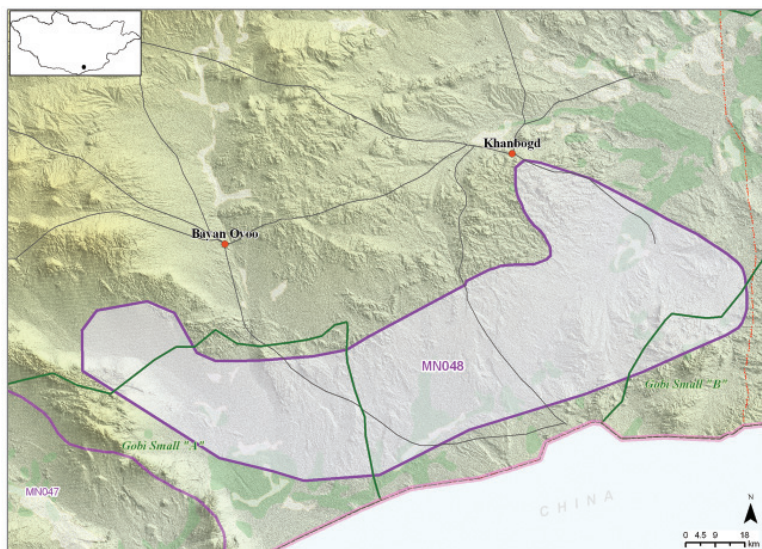
Partially protected by Small Gobi Strictly Protected Area (Parts A and B)

Site description

This site is similar to Borzon Gobi (MN047). The site is characterized by a 100 km-long desert valley, with rolling hills, sand dunes and dry river beds with elm and saxaul trees. Some rocky hills and oases are found in the area. Poaching of Asiatic Wild Ass *Equus hemionus* and other wildlife species is on the increase. The grazing areas of livestock and Asiatic Wild Ass overlap, resulting in competition for food and water. The site is bisected by an existing road linking mines in Omnogobi aimag with the Chinese border. Future development of these mines could lead to the upgrading of this transport corridor, with potentially severe impacts on biodiversity, such as increased hunting and creation of physical barriers to animal movements.

Importance for birds

Globally Threatened species found at the site include Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (EN), Lesser Kestrel *F. naumanni* (VU) and Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* (VU). In addition to these species, Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (NT), Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* and



Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* breed at the site. The site also supports species typical of the Eurasian steppe and desert biome, such as Mongolian Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*, Saxaul Sparrow *Passer ammodendri* and Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*.

Importance for other fauna and flora

Several globally and nationally threatened species occur at the site, including Asiatic Wild Ass (EN), Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa* (VU), Mongolian Gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*, Argali *Ovis ammon* (NT), Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica* and Long-eared Jerboa *Euchoreutes naso*.



Photo: N. Batsaikhan