Establishing crossings for Khulan (Asiatic Wild Ass) Along the Trans Mongolian Railroad (TMR)

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The Trans Mongolian Railroad Establishment since 1950
Since 1950’s due to Rail line safety and prevention from livestock collision the rail lines have rigorous fences on both sides leading to annual mortality of 4,000-5,000 wildlife such as Mongolian gazelle and Goitered gazelle trying to cross through these fences.
TMR Wildlife corridor initiative:

- Approved and piloted gaps for wildlife crossings in 2020 with success, however the project is year by year negotiation
- Additional gaps to verify and to pilot in 2022
- More regular gaps to be planned for sustainable and long term corridor establishment in the future
The Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, fully endorsed the project and Vice Ministers recently opened the Project’s phase 2 Meeting.

Ministry of Roads, Transpiration and Development supports the project.

Ulaanbaatar Rail Authority supports the project however has concerns over the valuable rail and human safety risks thus partnering on year by year basis.

Local Province Governor fully supports.
Research data and Knowledge needs

- Baseline knowledge of herder locations and livestock grazing
- Setup livestock collaring and tracking to track risks and plan prevention activities
- Public awareness for herders and local officials
- FB page group created for public outreach and dialogue
- Future gap selection data collection from wildlife use of the area (data to verify more suitable crossing locations)
- Potential areas to be considered for over and under pass
Wildlife Friendly Rail Membership FB group has been created for dialogues, communications and message sharing:

- Local government key employees
- Ulaanbaatar Rail Authority relative Divisions 4th key employees
- WCS Project employees
- Herders in Rail line vicinity for public outreach and responsible livestock herding
Raise public awareness: posters distributed to local partners and herders
Identify wildlife and livestock hotspots along with TMR and future gap locations.
Project Success – Camera trap monitoring showing Khulan (Asiatic Wild Ass) crossing through the gap after 65 years of barrier on their movement from Gobi to Eastern Steppe.
Livestock as Major Rail Safety Concern
Re-establish and host ‘Inter-Ministerial Linear Infrastructure Working Group’ to continue receiving National Level support

Best practice for all stakeholders on issues such as Rail safety, International Safe Practices, responsible livestock herding, safe and long term wildlife crossings to be established throughout the TMR in Mongolia

Seek out and secure CMS and International level support and leveraging
Next Steps: Higher Level Policy and Safety Long Term Support Establishment