

Project Update: July 2014

With our current RSG grant, we are pleased to inform you how our training programmes from last year was put to real-time test this year. Two of our field staff got injured in separate accidents, and it would have resulted in us losing an entire year's camera trapping sampling in South Gobi. However some of the rangers and biologists who we had trained last year were able to take over the fieldwork and are currently setting up camera traps in the field.

This enhancement of our field capacity comes as a real evidence of the impact our training programmes have had. On the other hand, we are continuing to refine our snow leopard monitoring and conservation tool kit and have already held follow-up training in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and India, all using the customisable training material. In my last update, I described our latest round of field training in Mongolia for PA biologists.

We are finding that all trainees want regular training of this sort. There is also strong need for specialised topics, including advanced GIS and basic statistical analysis. We are working on improving the tool kit to include these topics. Some of the trainees have even requested longer sessions and it's obvious that participants are also using the time to build social bonds—which are important for teamwork.



Purevjav Lkhagvajav-Ranger training in South Gobi Mongolia-February 2014.