SECTION ONE. General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose of this Law

The Purpose of this Law is to regulate the use and procurement of land for state special protection and the preservation and conservation of its original conditions in order to preserve the specific features of natural zones, unique formations, rare and endangered plants and animals, and historic and cultural monuments and scenic areas, and to study and understand their evolution.

Article 2. Legislation on Special Protected Areas

1. The Legislation on special protected areas of Mongolia consists of the Constitution of Mongolia, the Law on Land, this Law and other legislative acts issued in compliance with them.

2. If an international treaty to which Mongolia is a party is inconsistent with this Law, the provisions of the international treaty shall prevail.

Article 3. Classification of Special Protected Areas

1. State special protected areas are classified as follows:
   1) Strictly protected areas ("darxan caazat gazar");
   2) National conservation parks ("baigaliin cogcolbort gazar");
   3) Nature reserves ("baigaliin nööc gazar");
   4) Monuments ("dursgalt gazar").

2. Aimag, the capital city, sums and düüregs may take certain areas within their territorial jurisdictions under local special protection.

Article 4. Buffer Zones of Special Protected Areas

1. State special protected areas may have buffer zones. The legal status of buffer zones is coordinated by a separate law. (This section was amended by the law of 23 October 1997.)
2. The central government organization responsible for special protected areas (hereinafter "central government organization") shall establish the boundaries of buffer zones for special protected areas following consideration of proposals by the relevant Citizens' Representative Assembly and its members.

Article 5. Taking Border Area Territories under State Special Protection

1. Following agreement with bordering countries, border area territories may be classified as state special protected areas.

2. An agreement with national border guards must be reached prior to making a decision on taking a border area territory under state special protection.

3. Upon agreement with the Protected Area Administration or local governor, the national border guards shall, in accordance with the appropriate legislation and border area protection regulations, establish procedures for the implementation of activities in the border territory or in territory which is under state special protection.

4. Upon the decision of the central government organization, the plenary rights of a state environmental control inspector may be transferred to a border representative, substitute or assistant in order to protect special protected areas. The border representative, substitute or assistant may exercise the plenary rights of the state inspector of environmental control only in border zones.

Article 6. Financing the Protection of Special Protected Areas

1. The budget for special protected areas protection includes expenditures for measures to protect the environment, restore natural resources, enhance the land, conduct monitoring research and investigations, conduct public awareness activities, and pay employee salaries.

2. Funding for the protection of special protected areas may be obtained from the following sources:

   1) State and local government budget investment; (The word "central" was deleted from this clause by the law of 02 January 2003.)

   2) Income from tourism and other activities and services;

   3) Donations and aid from citizens and economic entities;

   4) Income from compensation for damage caused in violation of the Law on Special Protected Areas and its regulations.
SECTION TWO. Strictly Protected Areas and their Protection Regime

Article 7. Strictly Protected Areas

Strictly Protected Areas are territories taken under state special protection, upon consideration of the state of conservation of the original conditions and features of their natural zones, in order to represent specific traits of the zones and scientific importance, and to ensure environmental balance.

Article 8. Strictly Protected Area Zoning

1. Strictly Protected Areas may be divided into the following zones, based on their natural features, and unique soil, water, flora or fauna characteristics:
   1) Pristine zones ("ongon büs");
   2) Conservation zones ("xamgaalaltyn büs");
   3) Limited use zones ("xyazgaarlaltyn büs").

Article 9. Pristine Zone Regime

1. Only protection activities conformant with the need to preserve original natural features may be conducted within pristine zones.

2. Research and investigation activities may be conducted within a pristine zone only by way of observation methods, and without causing any damage to the natural features. All other activities are prohibited within this zone.

Article 10. Conservation Zone Regime

In addition to the activities described in article 9 of this Law, biotechnological measures making use of environmentally safe technologies may be implemented in conservation zones to enhance flora and fauna reproduction and to mitigate damages caused by natural disasters.

Article 11. Limited Use Zone Regime

The following activities may be conducted in limited use zones using environmentally safe technologies and with appropriate licenses or permits:

1) Activities described in articles 9 and 10 of this Law;

2) Soil and plant cover restoration;

3) Forest maintenance and cleaning;
4) Animal inventories and activities to regulate animal population numbers, age, sex and structure, following an approved program and methods;
5) Use of mineral water and other treatment and sanitation resources;
6) Ecotourism organized following designated routes and areas, according to appropriate procedures;
7) Use of accommodations constructed according to appropriate procedures and designated for temporary residence, camping, observation, research or investigation by travellers or other people with permission;
8) Taking photographs, making audio or video recordings and using these for commercial purposes;
9) Worshipping natural sacred sites and conducting other traditional ceremonies;
10) In the case of local residents, the collection and use of associated natural resources and medicinal and food plants, according to established regulations, for household needs.

Article 12. Prohibited Activities in Strictly Protected Areas

1. It is prohibited to conduct the following activities in Strictly Protected Areas for purposes other than those described in articles 10 and 11 of this Law:

1) Changing natural features by ploughing, digging, using explosives, exploring natural resources, mining, quarrying sand or stone, harvesting wood and reeds, or constructing roads in areas other than in limited use zones;
2) Harvesting and processing secondary natural resources or plants of medicinal, nutritional or technical value for commercial purposes;
3) Hunting, trapping or disturbing animals or destroying their nests, hibernation dens or burrows for purposes other than those described in the paragraph 4 of article 11 of this Law;
4) Using methods, techniques or substances that produce negative environmental impacts to combat or prevent damaging insects, rodents, or fire;
5) Constructing buildings other than those described in paragraph 7 of article 11 of this Law;
6) Conducting any activities that pollute the soil, water or air;
7) Entering a special protected area with a dog or gun without permission from the local protected area administration;
8) Landing aircraft or flying at low altitudes without prior permission from the local protected area administration;
9) Establishing a seasonal nomadic encampment or grazing livestock without an appropriate permit;
10) Using open water sources such as lakes, rivers, steams, springs or ponds for commercial purposes;
11) Conducting other activities prohibited by law or the local protection regime which present negative environmental impacts.

SECTION THREE. National Conservation Parks and their Protection Regimes

Article 13. National Conservation Parks

National conservation parks consist of those areas taken under state special protection whose natural original conditions are relatively well preserved and that are of historical, cultural, scientific, educational and ecological significance.

Article 14. National Conservation Park Zones

National conservation parks may be divided into the following zones in consideration of their natural features, the location of flora and fauna, the conservation requirements of their historical and cultural monuments, and the conditions for developing travel and tourism:

1) Special zones ("oncgoi büs");
2) Travel and tourism zones ("ayalal zhuulchlalyn büs");
3) Limited use zones ("xyazgaarlaltyn büüs").

Article 15. Special Zone Regime

In addition to protection measures aimed at preserving natural features, measures using environmentally safe technologies for the conducting of research and investigation, enhancement of flora and fauna reproduction, restoration of soil and elimination of damages caused by natural disasters may also be undertaken in special zones.

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Date: November 29, 2006
Article 16. Travel and Tourism Zone Regime

The following activities may be conducted in travel and tourism zones using valid permits and environmentally safe technologies:

1) Activities described in articles 11 and 15 of this Law; and
2) Fishing in designated areas.

Article 17. Limited Use Zones Regime

The following activities may be conducted in limited use zones:

1) Activities described in articles 11, 15, and 16 of this Law;
2) Traditional animal husbandry;
3) Authorized construction of buildings for travellers and others, using approved proposals and plans;
4) Construction of roads and road stations following the appropriate procedures and using approved proposals and plans;
5) Support and maintenance of fields required for sport facilities and public activities;
6) Conducting ecological assessments for and developing the settled areas in the territory according to approved general plans.

Article 18. Prohibited Activities within National Conservation Parks

It is prohibited to conduct the following activities in National Conservation Parks for purposes other than those described in articles 15, 16, and 17 of this Law:

1) Activities described in paragraph 1-8 and 11 of article 12 of this Law;
2) Activities in special zones as described in paragraphs 9 and 10 of article 12 of this Law;
3) Extending settled areas or constructing buildings in violation of the approved development and building plans.
SECTION FOUR. Nature Reserves and their Protection Regime

Article 19. Nature Reserves

Nature Reserves consist of areas taken under state special protection in order to create conditions for the conservation, preservation, and restoration of certain natural features and natural resources.

Article 20. Classification of Nature Reserves

Nature reserves may be classified as follows:

1) Ecological reserves ("baigaliin izh bûrdliin nööc gazar") for the purpose of preserving unique virgin ecosystems;

2) Biological reserves ("biologiin nööc gazar") for the purpose of conserving rare and endangered plants and animals as well as enhancing the conditions for their reproduction;

3) Palaeontological reserves ("tüüxen oldvoryn nööc gazar") for the purpose of reserving natural state the remains of ancient animals and plants;

4) Geological reserves ("geologiin nööc gazar") for the purpose of preserving in natural state the land's unique formations, signs, and structures;

5) Water reserves ("usny nööc gazar") for the purpose of protecting rivers and their headwaters.

Article 21. Nature Reserve Regime

1. Traditional household activities may be carried out in nature reserves provided they do not have a negative impact on the natural features, the condition and location of certain types of natural resources, population levels, and the reproduction of flora and fauna for which the reserve is under protection.

2. It is prohibited in nature reserves to engage in any activities for commercial purposes that change the natural original condition and which are likely to have negative environmental impacts such as the construction of buildings, the digging of land, the use of explosives, the exploration and mining of natural resources, the hunting and trapping of animals, or the harvest of wood and reeds.
SECTION FIVE. Monuments and Their Protection Regime

Article 22. Monuments

Monuments consist of land taken under state special protection for the purpose of preserving the heritage of natural unique formation as well as historical and cultural traces in their natural state.

Article 23. Monument Classifications

1. Monuments may be classified as follows:

   1) **Natural monuments** ("baigaliin dursgalt gazar");

   2) **Historical and cultural monuments** ("tüüx, soyolyn dursgalt gazar").

2. Natural monuments may include waterfalls, cliffs, caves, unique rock formations, small groups of trees, oases, mineral waters and springs, sand dunes, meteor craters, lava beds and calderas.

3. Historical and cultural monuments may include areas containing ancient human dwellings and shelters, caves, pictographs, petroglyphs, deer and human stones, ancient burial sites, remains and ruins of ancient cities and settlements, rock walls, towers, canals, dams, ancient armouries, sacred sites associated with traditional rituals or worship, and sites associated with important historical events.

Article 24. Monument Regime

1. Protection measures such as constructing fences, posting warning signs and assigning local residents to be responsible for the protection of the land shall be undertaken within the territory of monuments.

2. Within an area extending 0.1-3.0 km of natural or cultural and historical monuments, it is prohibited to construct buildings that degrade the view and scenery, to plough or dig land, to use explosives, to explore or mine natural resources, to touch, disturb or remove natural or cultural and historical relics, or conduct any other activities which might cause damage to them.

SECTION SIX. Plenary Rights of state Organization for Special Protected Area

Article 25. Plenary Rights of the Parliament of Mongolia

The Parliament of Mongolia has the following plenary rights with respect to special protected areas:

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1) Defining state policy on taking territory under state special protection;  
2) At the request of the Government of Mongolia, making decisions on taking territory under state special protection and including the territory in one of state special protected area classifications, and approving or changing strictly protected area and national conservation park boundaries.


The Government of Mongolia has the following plenary rights with respect to special protected areas:

1) Organizing and ensuring the implementation of state policies and legislation on special protected areas;
2) Creating an economic and organizational system for protecting special protected areas and regulating the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations on this matter;
3) Organizing the forces of citizens and economic entities to protect special protected areas from natural disasters and other emergencies and eliminate damages caused by them;
4) Developing and implementing a national program to develop special protected areas and their buffer zones and provide ecological security and environmental balance;
5) Approving regulations on the protection of strictly protected areas and national conservation parks within the framework of the protection regimes described in this Law;
6) Establishing boundaries for nature reserves and monuments.

Article 27. Plenary Rights of the central government organization Responsible for Special Protected Areas

The central government organization responsible for special protected areas has the following plenary rights:

1) Coordinating the implementation of state policies and legislation on special protected areas;
2) Approving procedures and programs, granting permission for research and investigation programs to be conducted in special protected areas, and receiving and incorporating the relevant reports and information into the unified databank;

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3) Establishing procedures and programs for conducting research surveys and keeping records on biodiversity, establishing procedures for taking sample and probes, and conducting observations and hunting or trapping animals for the purpose of regulating herd structures in the protected zones;

4) Approving procedures and programs for maintaining and replanting forests, restoring soil and plants, determining areas of land to be rehabilitated and the working methods and technologies;

5) Establishing methods and procedures for preventing and combating harmful insects, rodents and fires and implementing measures to reduce damages in the special protected areas caused by natural disasters or other emergencies;

6) In cooperation with the relevant certified organization, establishing regulations for the use of mineral water, other minerals and secondary natural resources for treatment and sanitation, and developing a list of procedures for collecting and preparing plants with medicinal, food and technical designations;

7) Defining travel and tourism routes, directions and procedures;

8) In cooperation with the relevant central government organizations, reviewing and approving overall planning for settlements in the authorized zones of the special protected areas and the locations and proposals for creating new tourist resorts and spas;

9) Determining the size and procedures for land to be used for specific purposes in the authorized zones of special protected areas as well as the type and number of livestock allowed;

10) In agreement with Government of Mongolia, making decisions on the establishment of protected area administrations in strictly protected areas and national conservation parks and appointing their chairpersons.

Article 28. Plenary Rights of Citizens' Representative Assemblies of Aimags, the Capital City, Sums and Düüregs

Citizens' Representative Assemblies of the aimags, the capital city, sums and düüregs have the following plenary rights regarding special protected areas:

1) Discussing the governor's reports on the implementation of relevant legislation in the special protected areas in their jurisdiction, making decisions as appropriate, and ensuring the implementation of these;
2) Submitting proposals to the immediately superior Citizens' Representative Assembly or to the Government of Mongolia concerning the taking certain part of their territory under state special protection;

3) Making decisions on taking certain parts of their territory under local protection and defining their boundaries and protection regulations.

**Article 29. Plenary Rights of Aimag, Capital City, Sum and Düüreg Governors**

Aimag, capital city, sum and düüreg governors have the following plenary rights regarding special protected areas:

1) Coordinating the implementation of state policies and legislation on special protected areas;

2) Preparing proposals for taking certain parts of their own territory under state or local protection and submitting these to the appropriate organization;

3) Managing the protection of nature reserves and monuments.

**Article 30. Activities of the Protected Area Administrations in Strictly Protected Areas and National Conservation Parks**

The protected area administrations in strictly protected areas and national conservation parks (hereinafter "protected area administration") shall carry out the following activities:

1) Ensuring the implementation of legislation regarding special protected areas and the regulations concerning their protection;

2) Entering into contracts with organizations authorized to conduct research and investigations, and granting licenses for and inspecting activities to be conducted within the framework of the protection regime of the area;

3) In accordance with appropriate procedures, taking samples for research purposes, controlling wildlife herd structures, restoring natural resources, and cleaning and maintain forests;

4) Opening water sources for animals, preparing hay, laying forage and salt licks, building shelters and taking other biotechnical measures according to the appropriate procedures;

5) Ensuring the use of mineral waters and other therapeutic minerals as well as natural resources according to the appropriate procedures;

6) Defining sites and procedures for posting signs for authorized travel and tourism routes, building necessary accommodations and parking lots,
organizing sporting and other public events, ensuring sanitary conditions and maintaining facilities in cooperation with citizens and economic entities;
7) Supervising the maintenance of settlements and construction within the authorized zone and ensure that the approved plans are being followed;
8) Regulating the worship of natural sacred sites and other traditional ceremonies;
9) Conducting public awareness campaigns on the importance of special protected areas, protection regimes and relevant legislation regarding special protected areas, and keeping records of data and create a databank;
10) Identifying areas to be used by citizens and economic entities according to the appropriate procedures, as well as the types and number of livestock permitted in the authorized zones.

Article 31. Plenary Rights of Rangers

1. The officials responsible for protection within the protected area administration and rangers have the same rights and obligations as a state environmental inspector.
2. Rangers working in special protected areas have the following plenary rights:
   1) Inspecting the implementation of this Law and other legislation on the protection of the environment, stopping any violations and taking appropriate action against guilty parties;
   2) Gaining access to the premises of economic entities and carrying out inspections in order to monitor the implementation of the legislation;
   3) Inspecting and temporarily confiscating documents of a person suspected in violation of legislation, and, if deemed necessary, carrying out an inspection of his or her vehicle and confiscating guns and tools as well as any items hunted, collected or processed;
   4) Bringing temporary injunctions against citizens or economic entities who have violated the laws, regulations or protection regimes by conducting activities with negative impacts, and requiring them to take specific actions within a certain period of time;
   5) Wearing a uniform and distinguishing badge, as well as carrying instruments and arms while on duty.
Article 32. Use of Arms by Rangers

1. In agreement with state police department, the central government organization shall establish the types and procedures for the instruments and arms to be used by rangers working in special protected areas.

2. While on duty, rangers may use arms in the following cases:
   1) In situations where the ranger's well-being or life is threatened by a criminal;
   2) In situations where an aggressive attack or wild animal threatens the ranger's life well-being.

SECTION SEVEN. Land Use, Research, and Investigation Activities in Special Protected Areas

Article 33. Land Use in Special Protected Areas

1. Land within limited use zones of strictly protected areas, national conservation parks, nature reserves and monuments may be used by citizens and economic entities through the use of environmentally safe methods according to a contract designating a specific purpose, terms, and conditions.

2. Foreign legal entities, international organizations, foreign citizens, stateless persons and economic entities with foreign investment are prohibited from using land in special protected areas.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this article do not apply to activities of foreign and international organizations that are conducted as part of a project in the appropriate zones of special protected areas within the scope permitted by this Law.

Article 34. Size and Term of Land Use

1. The term of the land use contract described in paragraph 1 of article 33 of this Law shall not also exceed 5 years and contract extensions shall not exceed 5 years at a time.

2. The area of the land to be used by citizens, economic entities or organization shall be established by the protection are administration or the sum or düüreg governor within the limits set out by central government organization.
Article 35. Requests for Land Use

1. According to the procedures set out in paragraph 8 of article 44 of the Law on Land, citizens or economic entities shall submit their request for land use to the protection area administration or, in the event such protection area administration has not been established, to the sum or düüreg governor. *(This paragraph was amended by the law of 7 June 2002.)*

2. The protected area administration or relevant governor shall submit the citizens', economic entities' or organizations' request for land use along with their recommendations to the central government organization.

Article 36. Land Use Decision

1. The central government organization shall make decisions on land use by citizens and economic entities within the limited use zones of strictly protected areas, national conservation parks, nature reserves and monuments based on the recommendations of the protected area administration and of sum or düüreg governors.

2. Where two or more persons request to use the same land, the decision to grant use of the land must be based on land use designation, environmental impacts and the expenses for environmental conservation measures.

3. Where citizens or economic entities request to use the same land for travel and tourism business, the decision to grant use of the land must be based on whether the facilities for those activities reach international standards.

4. The decision set out in paragraph 1 of this article shall clearly state the land use designation, the location of the zone, the location of the land, its boundaries and area, and whether the land is to be used solely or jointly.

5. In case of an objection on land use, the reason and justification must be set out in the decision of central government organization.

Article 37. Contract on Land Use

1. Following the decision described in paragraph 1 of article 36 of this Law, sum or düüreg governors may solely, or in cooperation with the protected area administration, conclude a contract on land use with a citizen or economic entity.

2. In addition to provisions set out in paragraph 8 of article 4 of the Law on Land, the following must be reflected in the land use contract: *(This paragraph was amended by the law of 7 June 2002.)*
1) The measures on and assets to be spent for preserving, conserving and restoring the natural original condition of the land;
2) The land payment amount and terms;
3) The rights and obligations and responsibilities of parties regarding land use and conservation;
4) The conditions and procedures for returning the land upon expiration of the land use contract and the procedures for the restoration, maintenance and issuance of the land;

Article 38. Land User's Rights and Obligations

1. Citizens or economic entities using land in special protected areas have the rights described in article 45 of the Law on Land. (This clause was amended by the law of 7 June 2002.)

2. In addition to the obligations described in article 45 of the Law on Land, citizens and economic entities using land in special protected areas have the following obligations: (This clause was amended by the law of 7 June 2002.)

   1) Taking measures to preserve the land and restore it to its original condition at their own expense;
   2) Entering and leaving the land using established roads;
   3) Where the land characteristics and land use designation are to be modified by activities prescribed by law or contract, relevant plans and proposals must be submitted to the central government organization for approval;
   4) Upon expiration of the land use contract, restoring and maintaining the land, and returning it to the protected area administration or the sum or düüreg governor.

Article 39. Prohibited Activities for Land Users

1. It is prohibited for citizens and economic entities using land in special protected areas to engage in the following activities:

   1) Transferring in whole or in part the land in their possession to others;
   2) Conducting activities prohibited by this Law and the special protected area regulations other than as stated in the contract, or conducting activities with negative impacts on the environment.
2. In the event that land is taken back from a user on the grounds established in law, land from the special protected areas may not be reallocated for the user.

**Article 40. Land Use Contract Expiration and Release of Land**

1. The right to use land in special protected areas terminates in the following cases:
   1) For the reasons described in article 39 of the *Law on Land*; *(This paragraph was amended by the law of 7 June 2002.)*
   2) In the event of persistent or serious violations of the protection regime of the special protected area.

2. Citizens and economic entities shall release the land and issue it to the local protected area administration or sum or düüreg governor within 90 days of the expiration of the land use contract if not otherwise provided by a contract as described in article 37 of this Law.

**Article 41. Organizations Conducting Research and Investigations in Special Protected Areas and their Duties**

1. Organizations and foreign and international research organizations with permission from the central government organization may conduct research and investigations in special protected areas on a contractual basis.

2. Research and investigation obligations for organizations acting in special protected areas:
   1) Complying with the legislation regarding special protected areas and the protection regime of the area;
   2) Obtaining the appropriate permits to conduct research and investigation activities and pay the required fees;
   3) Carrying out research and investigation activities using environmentally safe technologies;
   4) Reporting to the special protected area administration and the central government organization on the research and investigation activities;
   5) In the event damage has been caused to the environment in the process of carrying out research and investigation activities, taking measures to restore the environment and return the area to the protected area administration or sum or düüreg governor.
SECTION EIGHT. MISCELLANEOUS

Article 42. State Control

1. The professional inspections organization, the protected area administration and governors at all levels shall control the implementation of the legislation concerning special protected areas within their respective areas of authority. *(This paragraph was amended by the law of 10 July 2002.)*

2. State environmental inspectors shall control the implementation of the legislation regarding special protected areas and take actions against violators within their authority.

Article 43. Liabilities for Violation of Special Protected Areas Legislation

1. Criminal and administrative penalties provided for in the legislation shall be applied to violators of the legislation on special protected areas based on their fault, the status of the violation and the extent of the damage.

2. Where damage to the land characteristics, soil, water, flora or fauna in a special protected area has been caused by human actions, whether prohibited or authorized, the damage must be compensated by the guilty person in accordance with the appropriate procedure.

3. A judge or state environmental inspector may impose the following penalties for any violation of the legislation regarding special protected areas that is not subject to the Criminal Code:

   1) Confiscation of illegal income and a fine of up to 20 000 MNT for citizens or up to 100 000 MNT for economic entities guilty of conducting activities that violate the regime of special protected areas;

   2) Confiscation of illegal income and a fine of 2000 MNT to 20 000 MNT for citizens or 50 000 to 100 000 MNT for economic entities guilty of conducting prohibited activities in nature reserves or monuments;

   3) Confiscation of illegal income and a fine of 10 000 MNT to 20 000 MNT for citizens or 50 000 to 100 000 MNT for economic entities guilty of conducting prohibited activities in national conservation parks;

   4) A fine of 5 000 to 25 000 MNT for citizens or 50 000 to 100 000 MNT for economic entities guilty of causing adverse impacts on or damage to the land characteristics, soil, water, air, flora or fauna by conducting research and investigation activities in special protected areas;
5) Confiscation of illegal income and a fine of 10,000 to 50,000 MNT for citizens or 50,000 to 250,000 MNT on economic entities for conducting prohibited activities in strictly protected areas.

Article 44. Effective Date of this Law

This law takes effect on 1 April 1995.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONGOLIA  N. BAGABANDI