**FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN MONGOLIA (WITH CASE STUDY ON FOREST-STEPPE, STEPPE AND DESERT REGIONS)**

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## INTRODUCTION

Mongolia is a landlocked country located between Russia and the People's Republic of China, and one of the countries in the world, which has serious problems with forest depletion, land degradation and desertification. Mongolia has unique ecosystems consisting of Northern parts of Central Asia and the Southernmost distribution of Siberian taiga forest and elaborate extreme climate and arid zone with precipitation deficit. The average annual air temperature of Mongolia has increased by 2.14°C during the last 70 years with certain fluctuations (MNET 2009). Forest in Mongolia covers two distinct regions: the Northern boreal forests and the Southern Saxual (*Haloxylon ammodendron* C.A.Mey. Bunge) forests in the arid desert regions. Forest cover in Mongolia accounts 18.5 million ha, consisting of 12.3 million ha of boreal forests and 5.6 million ha Saxual forests accounting for 11.8% of the total land area (Forest Research and Development Center, 2016). Desertification is a significant global ecological and environmental problem. The results of a desertification assessment in 2015 indicate that 76.8% of country’s total land is affected by some degree of desertification, including slightly affected by desertification, while 22.9% of land was severely and very severely desertified (State of Environment of Mongolia, 2017). Hence, desertification and land degradation in Mongolia has reached the national security level (Desertification atlas, 2013).

National Programme named “Green Belt” in southern Mongolia: the objective of this programme was to create a belt of planted trees in the transitional zone between the Mongolian Gobi desert and steppe regions in an effort to reduce the present intensification of loss in forest resources, desertification, sand movement, sand and storms caused by climate change and inappropriate anthropogenic activities. Species selection with tolerance to drought, cold, salt and other natural and anthropogenic impacts are important for success of tree planting especially in arid and semiarid regions of Mongolia.

![Forest plantation in Dry-steppe regions of Central Mongolia](image1)

![Forest plantation in Semi-desert regions of Mongolia](image2)

![Saxual forest plantation in Gobi desert of Mongolia](image3)

The view of research and experimental sites in dry-steppe regions of Mongolia

The view of research and experimental sites in desert regions of Mongolia


*Source: Mongolia-Korea Joint “Green Belt” Project*

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