

Identified Aspect	What could be harmed	Control measures taken to minimise our impact on the environment and culture of Mongolia
Introduction	<p>Go Wilderness Mongolia strives to set the highest appropriate standard to protect the environment of Mongolia. Much of it is true wilderness and accordingly very fragile. We encourage our clients to take individual responsibility for their own personal rubbish (sweet wrappers, water bottles, paper packaging etc) throughout their time in Mongolia. We will set high corporate standards for protecting the environment by: Educating guides, staff and clients and actively pursuing our policy as outlined here. While we can never be perfect, it has been developed to take into account the real practicalities of Adventure Travel in Mongolia. Wherever guidelines in National Parks or Other Areas exist we will meet or exceed their requirements. This Impact Assessment is a 'working model' and as such needs to be flexible and adaptable, as circumstances exist. It is constantly reviewed and any feedback is acted upon and if appropriate incorporated into it.</p>	
Rubbish and general litter	<p>Birds, mammals, fish, horses, camels, sheep etc Campsites, rivers, glaciers and other fragile environments Local people</p>	<p>Wherever possible rubbish will be dealt with on location or as soon as possible afterwards ie when leaving campsites. The following is acceptable – Burning of paper and card, non-burnable items such as glass and tin must be brought out of fragile areas in packs or vehicles and disposed off in a suitable and acceptable manner. Food waste from preparation and leftovers may be fed to local animals with the owners permission, or buried at a depth greater than 50 cm (or another depth depending on the position of the acting composting layer) or brought out of fragile areas in packs or vehicles and disposed off in a suitable and acceptable manner ie municipal waste tip. Washing up waste water is coarsely filtered and soluble waste water is dispersed over a large grassy area so sunlight will biodegrade it quickly, non soluble waste is buried as above. All additional packaging is taken off before going into the countryside.</p>
Spillages of fuel	<p>Birds, mammals, fish, horses, camels, sheep etc Campsites, rivers, glaciers and other fragile environments Local people</p>	<p>Secure caps on vehicle fuel containers, Use funnels to avoid spillage and have a cloth ready if any spillage occurs. When using gas canisters the Senior Leader ensures that empty ones are not thrown into the environment. They need to be taken to a municipal tip where they can be disposed off appropriately.</p>
Inappropriate or aggressive behaviour	<p>Birds, mammals, fish, horses, camels, sheep, other Park users, local people, clients</p>	<p>Guides brief clients on maintaining a suitable viewing distance from wildlife, appropriate behaviour to adopt, and to ensure appropriate supervision. Petting of animals is discouraged as per the Go Wilderness Mongolia Risk Assessment.</p>
Fire	<p>Forest, Guests, Guides, Birds Local people, clients, other park users, grasslands, local people. Air quality</p>	<p>Observe general NO Fire code. On occasions groups may cook on a small fire with locally collected wood, this is only appropriate when the local guide or wrangler says so and if there is an abundant supply of fallen dead wood which local nomadic people are not relying on for their livelihood. All appropriate precautions are taken to avoid fires getting out of control.</p>
Inappropriate hygiene with respect to toilet arrangements	<p>Park users, birds, wild life Risk of Giardia. Local people, Clients.</p>	<p>Briefing of guests by guides; on campsites appropriate toilet facilities will be provided by Go Wilderness Mongolia either in the form of 'porta loos' or sheltered holes in the ground. These are to be sited a minimum of 30m away from any water course / supply and be at least 30cm deep. When leaving a campsite these toilet holes are to be filled in, and the soil replaced as best as possible. Toilet roll (paper) is to be incinerated upon leaving campsites or removed to municipal waste tips. Clients are advised against leaving toilet roll anywhere except in the toilet waste bag provided in each toilet shelter.</p>

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Feeding wild native Fauna	Native Fauna	Adequate briefing and supervision
Nesting Birds	Birds, eggs and chicks	Guides knowledge of nesting sites and adequate briefing and supervision
Tree felling	Clients, guides, general public	Appropriate briefing and supervision by guide
Walking off the trail	Client, Guide, Environment	Appropriate briefing, justification by guide
Batteries and other non disposables	Birds, mammals, fish, horses, camels, sheep etc, Campsites, rivers, glaciers and other fragile environments	All used batteries are to be returned to the country of the clients as there is no facility in Mongolia for correctly disposing of such. Clients are told before arrival in Mongolia not to rely on single use batteries and to work together and use a solar charger to recharge their batteries.
Erosion	Fragile environments such as; mountains, scree slopes, marshes, glaciers, steppes, dessert sands. Archaeological and Historic sites, etc	Clients are briefed on the fragile nature of the wilderness and of appropriate ways of moving through and living within it.
Water pollution	Water sources, streams, rivers, marshes, glaciers, permafrost, dessert and other fragile areas	All clients are briefed to protect water sources at all times. No waste, rubbish or toilets are disposed off near to (within 50m) water sources. On occasions when clients purchase bottled water, the need for them to take responsibility for the empty bottle is stressed (the same applies to fizzy drinks). We encourage the use of 'biodegradable' products such as soap and shampoo.
Taking of artefacts, Flora and Fauna etc	Environment, Archaeological and Historic sites, etc	Guides to brief clients and ensure appropriate supervision. No take policy observed at all times.
Driving and Vehicles	All environments and people	Drivers advised to keep to previous vehicles tracks unless other hazards or situations suggest otherwise. Great care is taken during wet weather and on wed or snowy roads, to avoid damage to soil and plants. Care to be taken when vehicles ford rivers and streams to avoid unnecessary damage to riverbanks and access / egress areas.
Office	Wherever possible we will use recyclable products and recycle them when consumed. We will adopt a minimum paper office. The numbers of staff involved will be kept at a level that is the best balance between the interests of our clients and those of a sustainable and minimum impact expedition. We will encourage all participants to take part in a Cultural / Community or Environmental / Conservation Project while they visit Mongolia.	

Education

We will train and educate all staff and participants with Go Wilderness Mongolia in techniques of minimum impact adventure travel and engage them to accept their responsibilities.

Conservation

We will undertake conservation and cultural projects and incorporate best practice during expeditions to help conserve and protect the Flora and Fauna of Mongolia.

Minimum impact

We will practice minimum impact camping and expeditions, engaging participants to accept their role in caring for the environment. We will take nothing but photographs and memories, leave nothing but happiness and small footprints.

Sustainability

We will encourage all involved with Go Wilderness Mongolia to adopt a strategy that encourages local sustainability. We will also adopt these processes in the 'office' as well as in the field.