



# WASTE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Strengthening the capacity of policy makers and practitioners in Bhutan, Mongolia, and Nepal to reduce greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants from the waste sector, based on circular economy concept.



In Mongolia, approximately 50 percent of the country's population of 3 million lives in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Because of rapid urbanization, more than half of Ulaanbaatar today consists of ger areas: large, unplanned settlements that are home to almost 60 percent of the city's population. These low-density settlements lack the most basic services, including solid waste management. Service improvements have been limited due to poor planning, underinvestment, a lack of information, weak accountability structures, corruption and ineffective incentive mechanisms. Irregular service and the illegal dumping of trash in public spaces is a constant complaint among ger-area residents. Open burning that releases short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and other hazardous pollutants into the atmosphere is common practice. These are threats to public health and the environment, impacting water, soil and air contamination. As a result, the city faces increased green-house gas (GHG) and SLCP emissions.

Mongolia also faces energy and resource shortages that could be moderated through the valorization of waste as a resource for energy and materials. As it stands now, waste is not only an environmental and social problem, but also an economic loss. The potential of low-carbon technologies in the waste sector to optimize the cobenefits related to climate change and global warming has not been sufficiently explored. However, there are policy improvements that can lead to significant reforms in the solid waste management sector in Mongolia.



The adoption of the Green Development Policy of Mongolia in 2014, the recent approval of amendments to the Law on Waste, and the development of the National and City level waste management strategies and action plans create an opportunity for concerted effort to improve solid waste management service in the country.

## PROJECT GOAL

Mongolia has unused potential to mitigate GHGs and SLCP emissions generated in the waste sector. Therefore, the project supports national and local governments in creating an enabling legislative, financial and technological environment for the introduction and uptake of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in the waste sector.

The project will deliver technical and institutional capacity building activities that will increase Mongolia's ability to achieve the country's international GHG mitigation commitments. This can be accomplished through specific policy improvements, the identification of suitable environmentally sound technologies to mitigate GHGs and SLCPs emissions from the waste sector, and the development of bankable project proposals for the demonstration of the identified ESTs.

Project reports, lessons learned, and case studies will be easily accessible with the aim of incentivizing replications of similar efforts.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

Key actors (policymakers and key waste sector stakeholders) in Mongolia implement enhanced legislative frameworks, creating enabling conditions for the introduction and uptake of suitable environmentally sound technologies in the waste sector, while contributing to the achievement of the pledged Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

### OUTPUT I

National and city level strategies for waste management with explicit links to GHG and SLCPs mitigation opportunities are developed.

### OUTPUT II

Environmentally Sound Technologies for the waste sector of each country are identified based on the

UNEP methodology “Sustainability Assessment of Technologies.”

### OUTPUT III

Capacity of policymakers of target countries is strengthened to access green financing for larger-scale investments in appropriate environmentally sound technologies to demonstrate GHGs and SLCPs mitigation opportunities in the waste sector.

### OUTPUT IV

Governmental officials, waste sector operators and the general public are aware of mitigation potentials including the benefits of the waste sector. Knowledge and best practices on mitigation potentials are disseminated.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*

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**International Implementing Organization:** International Environmental Technology Center (IETC) of UN Environment

**Project Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia; The Municipality of Ulaanbaatar

**Project Activities:** Capacity building; Policy support; Technology transfer and demonstration; Investment promotion through financing instruments



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