

# **Illegal hunting and poaching status in Mongolia and the ways to prevent them**

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# Background

- In December 26, 1997 Mongolian Parliament approved a Resolution #106 “State Policy on Ecology”. In July 09, 2010, order 374 by the Chief General, Mongolian Police, within the Investigation Department, the Division for Combating Environmental Crime was established. This was the first official unit within the Mongolian Police Authority to combat environmental crime.

Environmental Crime

## **Division's goal and activities**

- Goal: To investigate, combat, halt, prevent the wildlife crimes within the country, to provide management and enforce related laws, cooperate with relevant stakeholders

28 endangered species, 72 rare species of wildlife are living in different and unique ecosystems under high continental climate of Mongolia


- There is a decrease in number and frequency of poachers and poaching, and trade of horns due to successful cooperation between the Mongolian Police Authority and other government organisations and NGOs, however the number of buyers and rate of need for saiga products is still stable.

## There are two types of illegal trade of wildlife products

1. To use as components in traditional medicine, jewelry, religious use and as meat and food in restaurant chains.

Due to high demand in use of wildlife products in neighboring China and other south-eastern Asian countries, there is an illegal chain of buyers and traders in Mongolia, who supply money for Mongolian citizens. They hire local illegal hunters and suppliers pushing them to break environmental and criminal laws and hunt, trade and export wildlife products.

Some local authorities, without any permissions from state authorities illegally allowing to hunt endangered and rare species to collect additional funding to local financial funds.




2. Re-export: carrying, keeping and trading illegal wildlife products from neighboring or other countries into Mongolia with further re-export to China and other South-East Asian countries.

- Examples: in 2014 3 Mongolian citizens carried and imported from Russian Federation 186 saiga (*S. tatarica tatarica*) horns with plans to re-export them to China.
- In 2013 from Gobi-Altai province Mongolian citizens attempted to export 31 horns of Mongolian saiga to China.
- It shows that Mongolian citizens are involved as hunters, buyers and traders in exporting and re-exporting illegal wildlife products.





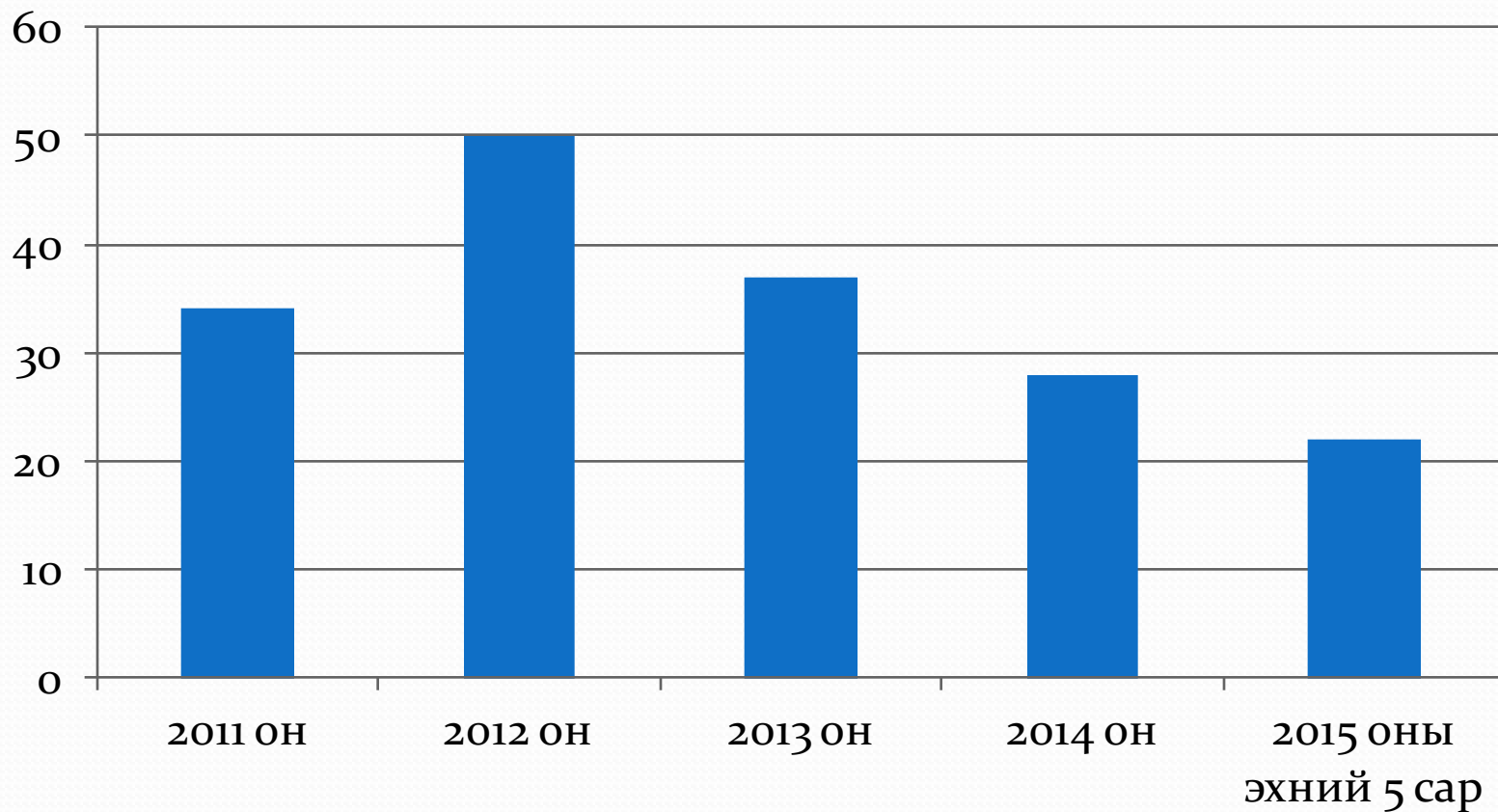


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- To combat and stop these kind of illegal activities, we should cooperate with different stakeholders, to involve local herders by recruiting them as active volunteers on collecting illegal wildlife hunting, trade information, use media to publicize and educate people on importance of wildlife species in ecosystems and their uniqueness on regular basis etc.

## Illegal wildlife crime data registered in Mongolian Police Authority:

- For last 4 years there were registered 176 illegal cases of wildlife crime and 81 cases **were** and 181 people were sentenced for different terms.

2011 – 34 cases, 2012 - 50, 2013 - 37, 2014 - 28,  
2015 first 5 months -22,



# Facing difficulties::

- Too few or not enough staff within the Police Authority
- Lack or insufficient equipment and modern techniques
- Difficulties to obtain reliable information on illegal hunting due to remoteness and hardness
- High demand and high prices from buyers make ready local people to brake the law.

# Measures to be taken from Police Authorities

- To organize in proper manner the system of informants and recruit new informants with higher financial compensations, to provide high level of secure information system and security of informants
- To pay attention rather to prevent illegal hunting and use of natural resources through halting buyers and smugglers system within and outside of the country than spending financial and human resources to stop the illegal hunting.



Thank you very much for your attention!