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MONGOLIA



COUNTRY REPORT

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT MONGOLIA

The territory of Mongolia is located in the central part of Asia between 41°35"-52°08" of latitude and 87°44" -119°55" of longitude, neighboring with Russia along 3543 km in the north and with China along 4709.6 km in the south. Mongolia comprises 1564.1 thousand square kilometers of land and the 17th largest country in the world. It is 2392 km from west to eastern frontier and 1259 km from north to southern frontier. The average altitude is 1 580 m and the highest point is the Huiten mountain peak with 4374 meter above sea level and located in the west while the lowest is the Khokh Nuur Depression with 532 meter above sea level and located in the east. The average altitude is 1580 m above sea level and Ulaanbaatar is at 1350 meter.

Mongolia's population is 3,409,939, of which 45 percent live in Ulaanbaatar, the largest city.

The country contains very little arable land, as much of its area is covered by steppes, with mountains to the north and west and the Gobi Desert to the south. Approximately 30% of the population are nomadic or semi-nomadic.

The predominant religion in Mongolia is Tibetan Buddhism, and the majority of the state's citizens are of Mongol ethnicity, although Kazakhs, Tuvans, and other minorities also live in the country, especially in the west.

1-1. Geographical Data

Mongolia is a landlocked country in Central Asia, strategically located between China and Russia.

The terrain is one of mountains and rolling plateaus, with a high degree of relief. Overall, the land slopes from the high Altay Mountains of the west and the north to plains and depressions in the east and the south. The western Mongolia on the Chinese border is the highest point (4,374 metres). The lowest is 518 metres, an otherwise undistinguished spot in the eastern Mongolian plain. The country has an average elevation of 1,580 metres. The landscape includes one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes (Lake Khuvsgul), many salt lakes, marshes, sand dunes, rolling grasslands, alpine forests, and permanent mountain glaciers. Northern and western Mongolia are seismically active zones, with frequent earthquakes and many hot springs and extinct volcanoes. The nation's closest point to any ocean is approximately 960 kilometres (600 mi) from the country's easternmost tip bordering northern China to Chongjin in North Korea along the coastline of the Sea of Japan.

Topography

Mongolia has three major mountain ranges. The highest is the Altai Mountains, which stretch across the western and the southwestern regions of the country on a northwest-to-southeast axis. The Khangai Mountains, mountains also trending northwest to southeast, occupy much of central and north-central Mongolia. These are older, lower, and more eroded mountains, with many forests and alpine pastures. The Khentii Mountains near the Russian border to the northeast of Ulaanbaatar, are lower still. Much of eastern Mongolia is occupied by a plain, and the lowest area is a southwest-to-northeast trending depression that reaches from the Gobi Desert region in the south to the eastern frontier. The rivers drain in three directions: north to the Arctic Ocean, east to

the Pacific, or into the deserts and the depressions of Inner Asia. Rivers are most extensively developed in the north, and the country's major river system is that of the Selenge, which drains into Lake Baikal. Some minor tributaries of Siberia's Yenisei River also rise in the mountains of northwestern Mongolia. Rivers in northeastern Mongolia drain into the Pacific through the Argun and Amur (Heilong Jiang) rivers, while the few streams of southern and western Mongolia do not reach the sea but run into lakes or deserts.

1-2. Climate information

Mongolia is high, cold, and dry. It has an extreme continental climate with long, cold winters and short summers, during which most precipitation falls. The country averages 257 cloudless days a year, and it is usually at the centre of a region of high atmospheric pressure. Precipitation is highest in the north, which averages 200 to 350 millimetres (7.9 to 13.8 in) per year, and lowest in the south, which receives 100 to 200 millimeters (3.9 to 7.9 in). The extreme south is the Gobi Desert, some regions of which receive no precipitation at all in most years. The name Gobi is a Mongol word meaning desert, depression, salt marsh, or steppe, but which usually refers to a category of arid rangeland with insufficient vegetation to support marmots but with enough to support camels. Mongols distinguish Gobi from desert proper, although the distinction is not always apparent to outsiders unfamiliar with the Mongolian landscape. Gobi rangelands are fragile and are easily destroyed by overgrazing, which results in expansion of the true desert, a stony waste where not even Bactrian camels can survive.

Average temperatures over most of the country are below freezing from November through March and are about freezing in April and October. January and February averages of $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) are common, with winter nights of $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) occurring most years. Summer extremes reach as high as $38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($100.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) in the southern Gobi region and $33\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($91.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) in Ulaanbaatar. Most of Mongolia is covered by discontinuous permafrost (grading to continuous at high altitudes), which makes construction, road building, and mining difficult. All rivers and freshwater lakes freeze over in the winter, and smaller streams commonly freeze to the bottom. Ulaanbaatar lies at 1,351 meters (4,432 ft) above sea level in the valley of the Tuul River. Located in the relatively well-watered north, it receives an annual average of 310 millimetres (12.2 in) of precipitation, almost all of which falls in July and in August. Ulaanbaatar has an average annual temperature of $-2.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($26.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$) and a frost-free period extending on the average from mid-June to late August.

1-3. Demographic data

Mongolia is a parliamentary republic. The president is directly elected. The people also elect the deputies in the national assembly, the State Great Khural, which chooses the prime minister, who nominates the Cabinet in consultation with the president. The Khural confirms the ministers.

Mongolia is divided into 21 provinces (aimags), which are in turn divided into 329 districts (sums). The territory of Mongolia is divided into western, khangai, central and eastern regions, and each region includes the following aimags:

Western region: Bayan-Ulgii, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan, Uvs and Khovd aimag;

Khangai region: Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Bulgan, Orkhon, Uvurkhangai and Khuvsgul aimag;

Central region: Govisumber, Darkhan-Uul, Dornogovi, Dundgovi, Umnugovi, Selenge and Tuv aimag;

Eastern region: Dornod, Sukhbaatar and Khentii aimag;

The capital Ulaanbaatar is administrated separately as a capital city (municipality) with provincial status.

Table 1. Number of population 2017-2021

Region	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Western	400 703	408 979	412 036	415 091	418 607
Khangai	593 645	604 353	605 216	604 200	606 430
Central	504 319	513 438	516 611	515 880	518 344
Eastern	216 259	220 334	223 193	225 081	227 386
Ulaanbaatar	1 462 973	1 491 375	1 539 810	1 597 290	1 636 172
Total	3 177 899	3 238 479	3 296 866	3 357 542	3 409 939

Ethnic group: Khalkha - 83.0 %, Kazakh – 3.78 %, other ethnic group (including Durvud, Buriad, Bayad and Dariganga etc.) – 22.12 %, others (including Russia, China and foreign citizenship) – 8.9 % (2020).

Agriculture, hunting and forestry were the main sectors of employment in Mongolia from 1940 to 1998. Since 1999, employment has increased in mining and quarrying, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, education, human health, and social work activities sectors. An analysis of classification of all economic activities sector revealed that employment in the agriculture, forestry, and hunting sectors was 86.7 percent in 1940 and reached 23.8 percent in 2020.

2. OVERVIEW OF DISASTERS AND ACCIDENTS IN MONGOLIA

The frequency of disasters and their impact has increased over recent years including Mongolia, as a result of global climate change, with disturbances to ecological balance and urbanization. Disaster can lead to widespread loss of life, directly and indirectly affect large segments of the population and cause significant environmental damage and large-scale economic and social harm. Classification of natural and human induced hazards in Mongolia is shown on Table 1.

Table 2. Natural and human induced hazards in Mongolia

Classification	Type	Disasters
Natural hazards and disasters	Climatic Hazardous Phenomena	Snow storm
		Severe snowfall
		Dzud /harsh winter condition/
		Dust storm
		Flood
		Steppe and forest fire

		Desertification
		Thunderstorm
	Geological threats	Earthquake
		Landslides
	Biological threats	Spread of detrimental rodents
		Human infectious disaster
Livestock and animal infectious diseases		
Human induced hazards	Technological accidents	Industrial accidents
		Traffic accidents
		Leakage of chemical and radiological substances
		Explosion
		Building fire
	Social	Public disorder
		Terrorist attack

As a result of global climatic changes, global warming, and the impact of harmful human activities there has been an increase in the number and frequency of natural and human induced hazards in Mongolia.

Table 3. Recapitulation of natural and human induced hazard occurrences /2012 - 2021/

Years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Numbers of natural and human induced hazard	4047	4467	4928	5426	4373	3758	4373	4990	4006	12694
Number of deaths	237	201	175	198	225	193	208	203	248	2304
Livestock deaths /thousand heads/	13.1	235.6	13.2	202.9	1 059.3	536.1	1 417.0	26.2	80.9	155.03
Economic damages /mln. tog/	94 482.6	21 961.4	25 164.3	79 951.8	43 073.6	69 724.4	81 900.0	35 800.6	31 317.5	1 915 459.03

Mongolian economy is heavily reliant on the livestock sector where approximately 49% of the total labour force is employed. As the livestock sector is highly sensitive to

extreme weather, and the natural resource represented by pastureland, rural householders are much more vulnerable to negative impact of climate hazards such as dzuds and severe snow and dust storms.

Mongolian most populated provinces that situated near the bigger river banks and also the nomads that move frequently around the 4 seasons, especially in fall and summer season on the mount gap, dry pebbles, valley, nearby river are causing and increasing in the flood risk.

According to a study, natural hazards constitute 27% of total natural and human induced hazard occurrences, but constitute 95% of total economic damage.

Many human induced hazards have occurred in recent years due to careless activity, such as building fires, explosion, leakage of toxic chemical and radiological substances, traffic accident and so on.

2-2. Overview of some major hazardous events and accidents in Mongolia

➤ Snow and dust storms

Snow and dust storms occur frequently in Mongolia due to natural conditions, geography and climate features. Snow and dust storms severely affect the Mongolian ecosystem, economy, society and population health, resulting in natural disaster. Rapid and massive land degradation such as desertification in the past few decades has contributed to increased occurrences of severe storms in Mongolia. This increase is attributed to climate change and harmful human activities.

From March 13 to 15, 2021, strong winds, snow and dust storms hit the whole territory of Mongolia, and a total of 706 people went missing in 51 soums of 12 aimags. A total of 10 people died in the snowstorm, including one child and nine adults. In addition, 140,347 livestock were lost and a large amount of property was destroyed.



Picture 1. Snow and dust storms disaster in Mongolia

➤ Dzud

The productivity of nomadic animal husbandry and the holder's livelihood are completely dependent on environmental and climate conditions. Dzuds have regularly occurred every 2 years, millions of animals have died, and as a result of these deaths, the holders' livelihood and country's economy is hard hit.

According to statistics of the last 60 years, 65% occurred in Mongolia, as a result, annually over 200 thousand heads of livestock have been lost.



Picture 2. Dzud disaster in Mongolia

➤ **Forest and steppe fires**

Forest and steppe fire is considered one of the natural disasters, which frequently occurs every year and negatively impacts Mongolia's environment and socio-economic status.

55.3 percent of the territory of Mongolia is considered at risk to steppe and forest fires. In particular, 98.52 percent of forest area has a high risk of forest fire occurring.

A trend in increasing wind strength has subsequently impacted on ground dryness and moisture loss. The possibility of steppe and forest fires occurring increases considerably in the dry season of spring (from the end of March to June) and autumn (from September to November).



Picture 3. Forest and steppe fires in Mongolia

➤ **Livestock and animal infectious diseases**

There are 15 types of serious animal infectious diseases registered worldwide. In recent years, a number of serious livestock and animal infectious diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, avian influenza, and anthrax occurred in Mongolia.

Foot-and-mouth disease caused by virus of the Picornaviridae family, although thought to be eradicated in Mongolia, in 1973, it reappeared along the Chinese border in 2000. In the last decade, foot-and-mouth disease mostly occurred in the eastern part of Mongolia.

Rabies remains an endemic problem especially among dogs, wolves and livestock cases reported in Mongolia. The peak prevalence of animal rabies occurred in the 1970s. the number of rabies cases in animals decreased during the 1980s. This may have been due to a decrease in the number of wild reservoir animals and the improvement of

appropriate veterinary measures. In recent years, animal rabies has prevailed in the Khangai and western provinces.

Anthrax is endemic throughout Mongolia, except in the semi-desert and desert areas of the south. The prevalence of anthrax in Mongolia had drastically since the 1950s, due to the use of anthrax antiserum and vaccines, but the privatization of the animal husbandry sector and changes in the structure of the veterinary and medical delivery systems in Mongolia over the last decade has resulted in challenges for disease control. Animal and human anthrax has become an increasing problem since the mid-1990s.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) was first recognized in late 2005 and subsequently identified in 2008 and 2009 among the wild birds.



Picture 4. Livestock and animal infectious diseases in Mongolia

➤ **Building fire**

Building fires are the most frequently occurring hazard in Mongolia. Approximately 70% of building fires occurred in the cold season, with the number of cases increasing in autumn or in the end of August, and reducing in spring or the end of April. There are many causes of building fires, including usage of old-fashioned heating stoves, lack of awareness of fire safety and fire legislation, and other careless activity.

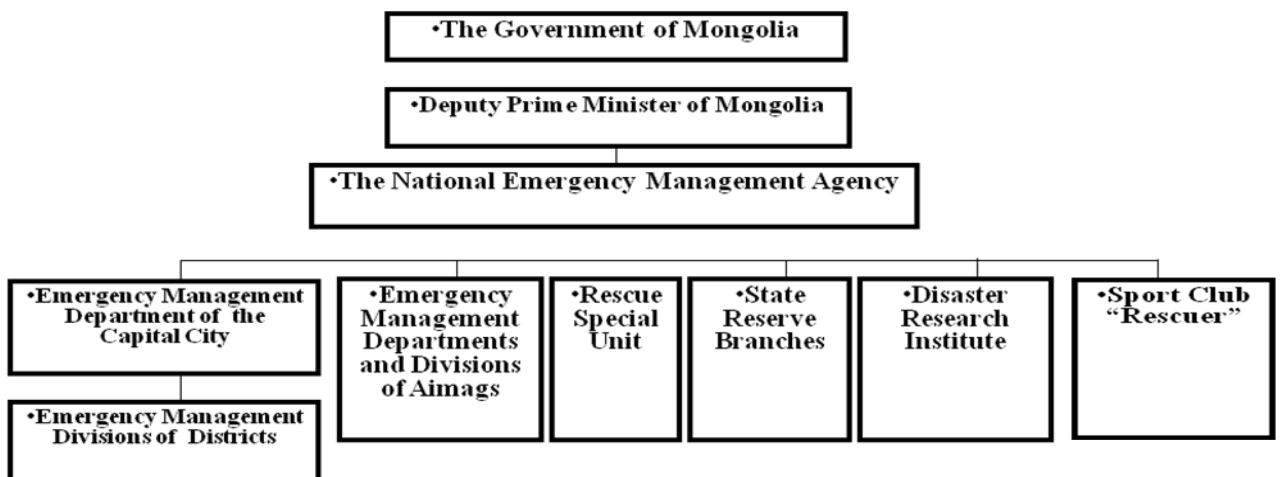


Picture 5. Building fire in Mongolia

3. DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Law on Disaster Protection was created in June 2003 and amended in 2018. In the Mongolian Constitution Article 6-(4) stipulates that the State regulates the economy of the country with a view to ensure economic security of the nation, the development of all modes of production, and social development of the population.

Table 4. Structure of Emergency Management Service's organization



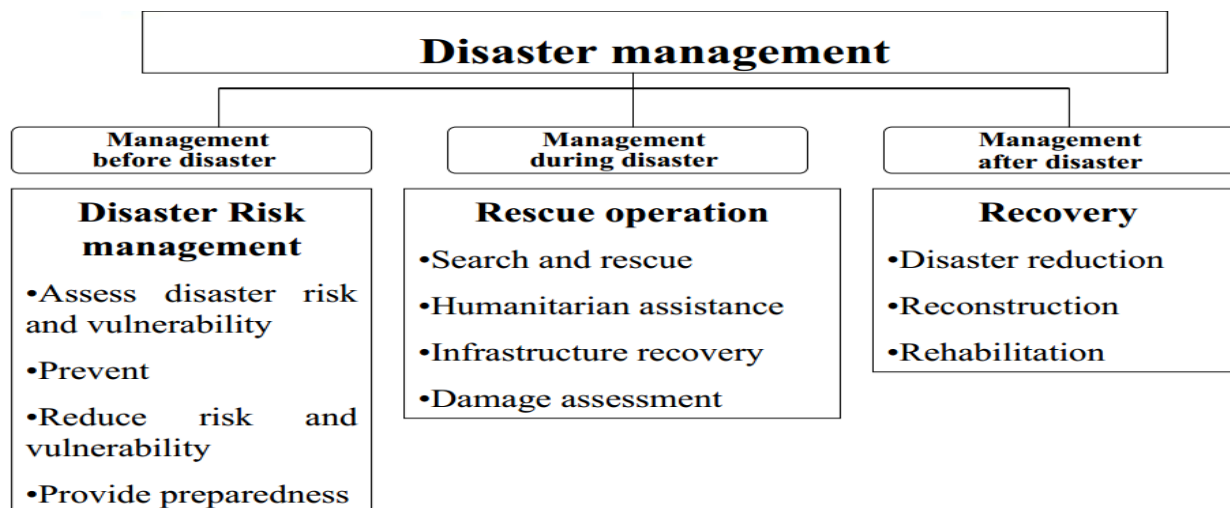
3-1. Structure of Disaster management

The state administrative organization in charge of disaster protection is the organization responsible for the implementation of the state disaster protection policy and

the legislation on disaster protection and the organization of nation-wide disaster protection activities and provision with professional management.

The disaster protection resources shall be emergency management institution, disaster protection state services, entities and enterprises and specialized units and volunteers (from the Law on Disaster Protection).

Table 5. Structure of disaster management



3-2. Administrative system

Mongolia is divided into 22 major administrative units comprising of 21 aimags and the capital city of [Ulaanbaatar](#). All are governed by 'Khurals', or elected bodies. Aimag populations range between 12,500 and 122,000 people. They also vary in size with the largest covering as much as 165.4 square kilometres of territory. An aimag consists of up to 27 'soums', including the aimag centre. Soums in turn are comprised of 'baghs'. In Mongolia there are 331 soums and 1550 baghs. Also the capital city, [Ulaanbaatar](#), is subdivided into 121 districts called 'khoros'.

In the country, the aimag centre is the administrative seat of local government, and the home of the aimag's legal bodies, theatres, hospitals, businesses, schools and industry. Most of the aimag population work in light industry, services and small business enterprises. Bagh populations tend to work in agricultural and animal husbandry. Baghs residents mainly lead a nomadic life. They migrate with their herds depending on the change in season and weather conditions. Typically their seasonal camps are located within the borders of their soum and baghs, though droughts, dzuds, and other natural disasters, can push them to different areas.

In Aimags, the capital city, Soums and Duuregs there shall be Khurals (Assemblies) of representatives of the citizens of respective territories;

In Baghs and Khoros - general meetings of citizens.

Khurals of Aimags, the capital city, Soums and Duuregs enjoy considering and deciding all problems, which do not depend on higher stage of Khurals or other organizations, in its territory. The main form of local self-government is the Khural. In between the sessions of the Khural and general meetings the presidiums shall assume administrative functions. The memberships of the Khurals as well as those of aimags, the

capital city, soums and duuregs, baghs and Khorroos are different. For example: In aimags and the capital city Khurals' Presidium of Representatives of Citizens is composed of 5-9 members, whereas, in soums and duuregs 5-7 and in baghs and horoos 3-5 members, including the chairman and secretary respectively. Regular meeting of the Khurals of Aimags, the capital city, Soums and Duuregs shall be convened once every year and of the Khurals of Baghs and Khorroos shall be convened less than twice every year.

The following table shows the services provided by some government agencies to the public.

Table 6. the services provided by some government agencies to the public.

№	Name of State Services	Leading State Administrative Organization
1	Disaster prevention, rescue and recovery services	National emergency management agency
2	Natural and chemical danger assessment and information service	Ministry of Nature and Tourism
3	Health protection service	Ministry of Health
4	Food and agriculture service	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light industry
5	Fuel and power service	Ministry of Fuel and Power
6	Radiation protection service	Nuclear Energy Agency
7	Road and transportation service	Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development
8	Construction and urban development service	Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development
9	Professional inspection service	State General Professional Inspection Agency
10	Information and communication service	Information, Communications Technology and Post Authority
11	Order service	General Police Agency
12	Public awareness service	Chief of Government Press Office
13	Mining service	Mining Agency
14	Population and social protection service	Population and Social Protection Agency

The following is a detailed description of the Emergency Management Agency, which is responsible for disaster relief, rescue, and recovery.

NEMA's duty is to implement laws, regulations and state policies on disaster protection, to organize and manage disaster protection activities both at national and local level and to provide professional management.

NEMA's function:

1. Strengthen the legal environment of disaster protection, improve policy coordination, and develop partnership and cooperation on disaster risk reduction at national, regional and international level.
2. Develop and strengthen a disaster risk management system and introduce science and innovation in disaster protection activities.
3. Strengthen the management leadership of the organization and human resource development, and capacity building.
4. Ensure disaster prevention measures as a universal activity, increase community disaster awareness and ensure public participation in disaster risk reduction.
5. Strengthen professional management on disaster protection, enhance the preparedness of equipment and techniques, strengthen capacity of search and rescue, response and recovery operations in disaster sites.
6. Ensure the fire safety, strengthen firefighting system and improve the preparedness of techniques through fire prevention and state control.
7. Deliver state reserve activities with management and coordination; strengthen disaster response through efficient humanitarian assistance coordination and recovery.
8. Increase disaster budget, financing, logistics and investment and introduce new technologies in disaster protection.
9. Conduct monitoring and evaluation, and internal audit and increase the outcome and productivity in disaster protection.

The National Emergency Management Agency has emergency departments in Ulaanbaatar and 21 aimags. NEMA also has a National rescue brigade, Disaster research institute, Repeat training center and The Savior is Physical sports and technical committee.

Totally more than 7000 emergency personnel (rescuers and firefighters) nationwide working in a local emergency management divisions or departments.

3-3. Legal system and Framework

The Law on Disaster Protection was first approved by the Parliament of Mongolia on 20 June, 2003.

Following the Law on Disaster Protection, Mongolian Government established the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on 7 January, 2004.

The role of the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia is defined primarily by three basic laws: 1) The Law on Disaster Protection, 2) Law on Fire Safety, 3) The Law on State Reserve. It is through these three major laws and other emergency directives that NEMA will be called on to provide oversight, coordination and direct assistance in the event of a major catastrophe.

Law on Disaster Protection:

Law on Disaster Protection regulates the process to organize the disaster protection activities in a timely and effective manner, as well as to regulate relations

related to the Emergency Management Organization of Mongolia, and management system, organization and operation of disaster protection activities.

Law on Disaster Protection regulates coordination of the involvement of Emergency Management Organization of Mongolia, National Council on Disaster Risk Reduction, State Emergency Commission, State Services of Disaster Protection, State and Local Authorities, enterprises, private entities and civil society in the framework of disaster prevention, preparedness, disaster risk reduction, search and rescue, response and recovery activities, as well as to implement state control on disaster protection.

Law on Fire Safety

Law on Fire Safety regulates the process of obligation and duty as well as mandates of local authorities, private enterprises and entities and individuals on providing the fire safety. Law on Fire Safety organizes nationwide firefighting and fire prevention activities.

Law on State Reserve

Law on State Reserve regulates the process for stocking state reserve items, storage, transportation and renewal of the emergency stockpiles.

Law in State Reserve reinforces the law implementation through the state reserve branches for stockpiling, storing and restocking state reserve items in accordance with approved location, list, quantity and disposing of them by a decision of the Government.

3-4. Foreign relations

National emergency management agency works with a relationship with the following international institutions and organizations:

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation:

- The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Affairs for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters
- Federal Agency for State Reserve, Russian Federation
- Ministry of Emergency Management, People's Republic of China
- China Earthquake Administration
- State Forestry Administration, People's Republic of China
- United States Army Pacific
- Alaska National Guard, United States
- United States Indo-Pacific Command
- United States Forestry Service
- Ministry of Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea
- National Fire Agency, Republic of Korea
- State Committee of Emergency and Disaster Management of Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- General Directorate for Civil Defense and Crises Management, French Republic
- Directorate for Disaster Management, Republic of Hungary
- Ministry of Emergency Situation, Republic of Kyrgyzstan
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

International organizations:

- UN Agencies
- International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO)

- Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Fire Chiefs' Association of Asia (IFCAA)
- World Bank (WB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- [http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/Mongolian Red Cross](http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/Mongolian%20Red%20Cross) (MRC)
- Mercy Corps
- World Vision (WV)
- Save the Children
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA)
- [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#) (SDC)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ect.

3-5. ADRC counterpart

Address:

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