

Update 1 - February 2019

Testing the cameras

Camels at the frontier: establishing an ecological baseline for the enigmatic “Ships of the Gobi Desert”

Gaia Nature Fund will support the purchasing of crucial camera traps and equipment required to carry out this much needed monitoring study. The Great Gobi reserve (GGASPA) covers approximately 44,000 km² and requires a huge number of cameras to detect the relatively few remaining camels that occupy this landscape.

In preparation for fieldwork in the Gobi Desert in January 2019, ZSL Mongolia staff Tsoomoo has been testing different types of camera traps. Not every type is suitable for the harsh conditions of the Gobi Desert. Tsoomoo first asked the permission of herders to set up camera traps nearby their winter shelters to test the camera's. In the image below you can see a herder photographed amongst Arkhangai's beautiful forest-steppe ecosystem.

Once the cameras have had some time to be tested under these conditions, 200 cameras will be purchased. Stay tuned for more updates on their deployment, and ultimately some images from the cameras themselves later in the year.



Testing camera traps in the Arkhangai region in central Mongolia. Image of a going about his daily routine.