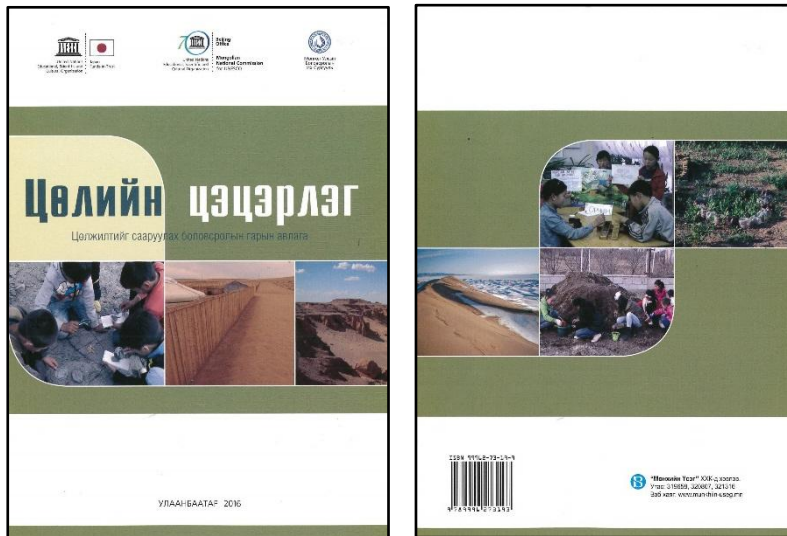


“Desertification Watch” starts in Mongolia



Desertification is a global issue and especially in Mongolia, with its extreme continental climate, most of the land area consists of desert and semi-desert.

Adopting the Sandwatch methodology, M.A.S.T., which stands for Measure, Analyse, Share and Take action, a new programme has been developed in Mongolia called Desertification Watch: Learning to Combat Desertification.

A similar enquiry based learning approach as used in Sandwatch, employs simple methods and low-cost small scale equipment to measure:

- Weather and climate
- Rocks and minerals
- Water supply
- Soil cover
- Plants and animals
- Pasture degradation and carrying capacity
- Traditional knowledge and local wisdom

The data are analysed, shared with the community and simple activities implemented to combat desertification.

“Desertification Watch” was developed by the Department of Geography, Mongolian State University of Education, under the leadership of Professor BatchuluunYembuu of the Geography Department with support of the UNESCO Beijing Office, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Japan Funds-in-trust. At present it is being piloted in secondary schools in two areas of Mongolia, Ulbayan and Tumentsogtsoum and Sukhbaataraimag.

The Desertification Watch manual is presently available in Mongolian and an English version is in preparation.