



LAW OF MONGOLIA

November 15, 1994

ABOUT SPECIAL PROTECTED AREAS

CHAPTER ONE General grounds

Article 1 The purpose of the law

The purpose of this law is to preserve and use natural zones, belt features, unique formations, lands with rare and endangered plants and animals, historical and cultural monuments and scenic landscapes, to study and understand the changing patterns, to take the land under special protection, to regulate relations related to the preservation and protection of its original appearance.

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Article 2. Legislation on special protected areas

1. The legislation on special protected areas shall consist of the Constitution of Mongolia, the Law on Land, the Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage, this Law and other legislative acts enacted in conformity with them.

/ This part was amended according to the law dated May 15, 2014 /

2. If an international treaty to which Mongolia is a party provides otherwise than this law, the provisions of the international treaty shall prevail.

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Article 3 Classification of special protected areas

1. State special protected areas shall be classified as follows:

- 1) Strictly Protected Areas;
- 2 / national parks;
- 3 / nature reserves;
- 4 / monuments.

2. Aimags, the capital city, soums and districts may take certain areas within their territory under special local protection.

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Article 4. Buffer zone of special protected areas

1. State special protected areas may have buffer zones. The legal status of the buffer zone shall be regulated by a special law.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated October 23, 1997 /](#)

2. Unless otherwise provided by law, the boundaries of Buffer Zones of Special Protected Areas shall be determined by the State Central Administrative Body Responsible for Special Protected Areas (hereinafter referred to as "State Central Administrative Body") taking into account the proposals of the respective level Citizens' Representatives Hural and its Presidium.

/ This part was amended according to the law dated May 15, 2014 /

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Article 5 To take state border and border areas under special state protection

1. Certain territories bordering the state may be classified as state special protected areas upon agreement with the neighboring state.

2. The issue of taking the border area under special state protection shall be agreed with the State Border Protection Agency in advance.

3. The State Border Protection Agency shall determine the procedure for carrying out its activities in the state border and border special protected areas in accordance with the relevant legislation in accordance with the state border and border regime in consultation with the protection administration or the relevant level Governor.

4. For the purpose of protecting specially protected areas, the authority of a state environmental inspector may be granted to border representatives, deputies and assistants by a decision of the state central administrative body. The powers of a border representative, deputy and assistant state environmental inspector shall be exercised only in the border area.

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Article 6. Financing the protection of special protected areas

1. The budget for the protection of special protected areas shall consist of the costs of protecting the environment, rehabilitating its resources, implementing land improvement measures, conducting research, analysis and publicity through monitoring methods, and staff salaries.

2. Funds for financing the protection of special protected areas shall consist of the following sources:

1 / state and local budget investments;

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated January 2, 2003 /](#)

2 / income from travel, tourism and other works and services;

3 / donations and assistance from citizens, business entities and organizations;

4) income from compensation for damage caused by a person who has violated the legislation on special protected areas.

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CHAPTER TWO

Strictly Protected Areas and their protection regimes

Article 7 Protected area

A Strictly Protected Area (SPA) is an area that has been taken under special state protection in order to ensure the balance of the environment, taking into account the preservation of its original appearance and its special scientific significance, which can represent the features and characteristics of natural zones and belts.

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Article 8. Strictly Protected Area

The Strictly Protected Area is divided into the following zones based on its natural features and condition, soil, water, flora and fauna, and human activities:

1 / virgin zone;

2 / protection zones;

3 / restricted area.

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Article 9. Pristine regime

1. Only protection measures shall be implemented in accordance with the requirements for preserving the pristine nature of the pristine area.

2. Research and analysis in the virgin zone may be carried out only in the form of observations without disturbing the natural state, and other activities are prohibited.

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Article 10. Protection zone regime

In addition to those specified in Article 9 of this law, biotechnical measures related to ensuring the breeding conditions of flora and fauna and eliminating the consequences of disasters shall be implemented in the protected area in an environmentally friendly manner.

/ This part was amended according to the law dated February 02, 2017 /

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Article 11 Restricted zone regime

The following activities may be carried out in a restricted area in an environmentally friendly manner with appropriate permits:

1 / activities specified in Articles 9 and 10 of this Law; 2 / to rehabilitate soil and vegetation;

3 / to maintain and clean the forest;

4) to carry out activities to regulate the livestock census, their number, age, sex and herd structure in accordance with the approved programs and methodologies;

- 5) to use mineral, medical and other minerals of nursing quality;
- 6) to organize nature travel and tourism in accordance with relevant procedures in the designated roads and areas;
- 7) to use accommodation built in accordance with relevant procedures for the purpose of temporary accommodation, camping, observation and research by travelers and other licensed persons;
- 8) to take photographs, make audio and video recordings, and use them in the creation of works;
- 9) to worship mountains and ovoids and perform other traditional rituals;
- 10) to collect and use natural by-products, medicinal and food plants for local use by local residents in accordance with relevant procedures.

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Article 12 Prohibited activities in Strictly Protected Areas

The following activities are prohibited in the Strictly Protected Area for purposes other than those specified in Articles 10 and 11 of this Law:

- 1 / to change the state of nature by plowing, digging, blasting, prospecting, mining, extracting sand and gravel, preparing timber, reeds and sieves, and building roads outside the restricted zone;
- 2 / to collect and prepare natural by-products, medicinal, food and technical plants for industrial purposes;
- 3 / to hunt, capture, repel wild animals, disturb or destroy their nests, hives, holes and dogs for purposes other than those specified in Article 11.4 of this Law;
- 4) to use methods, techniques and substances that have a negative impact on the environment in the fight against pests, rodents and fires;
- 5) to build buildings and structures other than those specified in Article 11.7 of this Law;
- 6) to carry out any activities that pollute soil, water or air;
- 7) to carry a dog or carry a gun without the permission of the local administration;
- 8 / to make landings and fly at very low altitudes without the prior permission of the local security administration, unless absolutely necessary;
- 9) to build winter, spring, autumn and summer camps and to graze livestock without proper permits;
- 10) to use open water for industrial purposes, such as lakes, rivers, streams, springs and streams;
- 11) to carry out other activities that adversely affect the environment prohibited by legislation and protection procedures.

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CHAPTER THREE National Park and its protection regime

Article 13 National park

A national park is an area that has been relatively preserved in its natural state and is under special state protection, which is important for historical, cultural, scientific, cognitive and ecological education.

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Article 14 National park area

The national park is divided into the following zones according to its natural features, location of flora and fauna, requirements for preservation of historical and cultural monuments, and conditions for tourism development:

- 1 / special zone;
- 2 / travel and tourism areas;
- 3 / restricted area.

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Article 15 Special zone regime

In addition to implementing protection measures in accordance with the requirements of preserving the natural environment in the special zone, measures shall be taken to conduct research and analysis in ways and forms that do not adversely affect the environment, to ensure plant and animal breeding conditions, soil rehabilitation and disaster relief.

/ This part was amended according to the law dated February 02, 2017 /

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Article 16 Regional tourism regime

The following activities may be carried out in a tourism zone with appropriate permits in an environmentally friendly manner:

- 1) to carry out activities specified in Articles 11 and 15 of this Law;
- 2 / fishing in permitted areas.

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Article 17 Restricted zone regime

The following activities may be carried out in the Restricted Zone:

- 1 / activities specified in Articles 11, 15 and 16 of this Law;
- 2 / to engage in livestock breeding by traditional methods;
- 3 / to construct buildings and facilities for use by travelers and other licensed persons in accordance with approved drawings, designs and permits;
- 4 / to build roads and provide parking for vehicles in accordance with approved designs and relevant procedures;
- 5) to renovate areas required for physical culture and public events;
- 6) to develop settlements in the given territory in accordance with the general plan approved by ecological examination.

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Article 18 Prohibited activities in national parks

It is prohibited to carry out the following activities in a national park for purposes other than those specified in Articles 15, 16 and 17 of this law:

- 1 / to carry out activities specified in Articles 1-8 and 11 of Article 12 of this Law;
- 2 / to carry out activities specified in Article 12.10 of this Law in the special zone;
- 3 / to expand the territory of the settlement and build buildings and structures in violation of the approved general plan, drawings and budget.

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CHAPTER FOUR NATURE RESERVES AND ITS PROTECTION REGIME

Article 19 Nature reserve

A nature reserve is an area taken under special state protection for the purpose of creating conditions for the protection, preservation and restoration of certain types of natural resources and resources.

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Article 20 Types of nature reserves

Nature reserves are divided into the following types:

- 1) nature reserve for the purpose of preserving the original appearance and style of nature;
- 2 / biological reserves for the purpose of protecting endangered plants and animals and creating conditions for their reproduction;
- 3 / a reserve of natural historical artifacts for the purpose of preserving rare finds of ancient animals and plants in their natural state;
- 4) geological reserve areas with the purpose of preserving unique land formations, occurrences and their structures in their natural state;
- 5 / Water reserves for the purpose of protecting rivers, streams and water sources.

[/ This provision was added by the law in 4/22/2004 /](#)

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Article 21 Natural resource regime

1. Traditional farming may be carried out in a nature reserve without adversely affecting the nature of the protected area, the condition of certain resources, and the location, growth and reproduction of flora and fauna.

2. To change the natural environment of the nature reserve by constructing buildings and structures that may have a negative impact on the environment, digging and blasting for industrial purposes, prospecting and mining, hunting and trapping, and harvesting trees, reeds and silt. It is prohibited to carry out any polluting activities.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated April 22, 2004 /](#)

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CHAPTER FIVE SITE AND ITS PROTECTION REGIME

Article 22 Memorial

A monument is an area taken under special state protection in order to inherit unique natural formations, historical and cultural traces in their natural state.

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Article 23 Types of monuments

1. Monuments are divided into the following types:

- 1 / natural monuments;
- 2 / historical and cultural monuments;
- 3 / monuments of world and national cultural heritage.

[/ This provision was added by the law in 5 May 2014 /](#)

2. Rare mineral finds, such as waterfalls, shells, canyons, caves, cliffs, ravines, windows, groves, springs and oases, with unique formations and findings in natural monuments , sand dunes, meteors, meteorites, households, and volcanic craters.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated July 01, 2014 /](#)

Z. Historical and cultural monuments include ancient human shelters, camps, dwellings, caves, paintings, petroglyphs, deer and man-made stone statues, tombs, ancient cities, settlement remains, ruins, walls, castles, ditches, dams, and ancient weapons. These include deposits, mountains and ovals associated with traditional rituals, places of worship and historical events.

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Article 24 Monument regime

1. Protective measures shall be taken at the monument, such as fencing, warning signs and symbols, and entrusting its protection to local residents.

2. Construction of buildings, plowing, excavation, blasting, prospecting, mining, natural and historical monuments, natural and historical monuments in the area of O, 1-3, O km. It is prohibited to disturb, destroy or demolish cultural monuments and carry out other activities that may cause damage to them.

3. The protection regime of world and national cultural heritage sites shall be established by law.

/ This section was added by the law in 5 May 2014 /

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CHAPTER SIX Powers of state organizations on special protected areas

Article 25 Powers of the State Great Hural

The State Great Hural shall exercise the following powers with respect to special protected areas:

- 1) to determine the state policy on taking land under special state protection;
- 2 / to make a decision on taking the land under special protection upon submission by the Government, to assign these lands to certain categories of state special protected areas, to approve and change the boundaries of Strictly Protected Areas and National Parks.

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Article 26 Powers of the government

The Government shall exercise the following powers with respect to special protected areas:

- 1) to organize and ensure the implementation of the state policy and legislation on special protected areas;
- 2) to establish an economic and organizational system for the protection of special protected areas and to coordinate the activities of the Government and non-governmental organizations on this issue;
- 3) to unite the efforts of citizens, business entities and organizations to prevent disasters and dangers in special protected areas and to eliminate the damage caused by them, and to take necessary measures;

/ This part was amended according to the law dated February 02, 2017 /

4) to develop and implement a national program for the development of special protected areas and their buffer zones, to ensure ecological security and environmental balance;

5) to approve the protection regime of the Strictly Protected Areas and National Parks within the protection regime specified in this Law;

6) to determine the boundaries of nature reserves and monuments.

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Article 27 Protected areas

the state administration in charge

powers of the central body

The state central administrative body in charge of special protected areas shall exercise the following powers:

1) to organize the implementation of state policies and legislation on special protected areas;

2) to approve procedures and programs for research and analysis to be carried out in special protected areas, to issue permits, to receive relevant reports and information and to include them in the general database;

3) to approve methods and programs for conducting research and inventory of biological species, to keep records, to take samples and specimens for observation purposes from the authorized zone, to make measurements, and to establish procedures for hunting and trapping animals for the purpose of regulating herd structure;

4) to approve procedures and programs for forest care, afforestation, soil and plant rehabilitation, and to determine the size of the land to be rehabilitated and the methods and technologies to perform such work;

5) to establish procedures and methods for the prevention of pests, rodents and fires, and to take measures to reduce the damage caused by disasters and special protected areas;

/ This part was amended according to the law dated February 02, 2017 /

6) to establish, in cooperation with relevant professional organizations, the procedure for the use of mineral and other non-natural resources for mineral, medical and nursing purposes, the list of medicinal, food and technical plants, and the procedure for their collection and preparation;

7) to determine travel routes, directions and procedures;

8) to review and approve the general plan of settlements in the permitted zones of special protected areas, the location and design of new tourist camps, resorts and sanatoriums in cooperation with the relevant state central administrative bodies;

9) to determine the land that can be used for specific purposes in the permitted zone of a special protected area, its size, procedures for use, and the type and number of livestock that may be kept in the area;

10) in consultation with the Governor of the relevant level, decide on the establishment of a protection administration in the Strictly Protected Area and National Park, and select the head from among civil servants with environmental qualifications who have worked in the field for at least 3 years in accordance with Article 17.1 of the Civil Service Law Appointment;

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated December 22, 2006 /](#)

11) To put at the appropriate stage the issue of taking large rivers and basins of national importance under special state protection, where there is a real threat of degradation and pollution of water resources.

[/ This provision was added by the law in 4/22/2004 /](#)

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Article 28 Powers of Citizens' Representatives Khurals of aimags, the capital city, soums and districts

Aimags, capital city, soum and district Citizens 'Representatives' Khurals shall exercise the following powers with respect to special protected areas:

1) to discuss the Governor's report on the implementation of the legislation related to the special protected areas in its territory, to make appropriate decisions and to ensure their implementation;

2) to submit to the higher level Citizens 'Representatives' Khural or the Government a proposal to take a certain part of its territory under special state protection;

3) to make a decision to take a certain part of its territory under local protection, to determine its boundaries and protection regime.

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Article 29 Powers of aimag, capital city, soum and district governors

Governors of aimags, the capital city, soums and districts shall exercise the following powers with respect to special protected areas:

- 1) to organize the implementation of state policies and legislation on special protected areas;
- 2 / to develop proposals on taking a certain part of its territory under special state and local protection and submit it to the relevant authorities;
- 3) to protect nature reserves and monuments.

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Article 30 Administrative activities of Strictly Protected Areas and National Parks

The Strictly Protected Area and National Park Administration (hereinafter referred to as the "Strictly Protected Area Administration") shall carry out the following activities:

- 1) to ensure compliance with the legislation on special protected areas and the protection regime of the respective area;
- 2 / to enter into an agreement with an organization licensed to conduct research and analysis, to issue permits and to monitor activities that may be carried out within the protection regime of the area;
- 3 / to take samples and specimens for research and analysis purposes in accordance with relevant procedures, to regulate the structure of wildlife herds, to rehabilitate natural resources, and to maintain and clean forests;
- 4) to open water for animals, prepare hay, lay fodder, salt, straw, build shelters and other biotechnical measures in accordance with relevant procedures;
- 5) to use mineral and non-natural resources for mineral, medical and nursing purposes in accordance with relevant procedures;
- 6) to mark permitted travel routes and routes, to construct necessary accommodation, to provide parking lots, to establish places and procedures for conducting physical culture and other public events, to ensure their hygienic conditions, and to equip them in cooperation with citizens, business entities and organizations ;
- 7) to monitor the implementation of landscaping and construction of settlements and facilities in the permitted zone in accordance with the approved plan;
- 8) to regulate the worship of mountains and ovoos and other traditional ceremonies;
- 9) to promote the importance of special protected areas, protection regimes and relevant legislation, to keep chronological records and to create a database;
- 10) to determine the type and number of livestock that can be kept in the permitted zone and the land to be used by citizens, business entities and organizations in accordance with relevant procedures.

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Article 31 Powers of rangers

1. The officer in charge of protection of the nature protection administration and the ranger shall have the rights and responsibilities of the state environmental inspector.

2. A ranger working in a special protected area shall exercise the following powers:

- 1) to monitor the implementation of this law and other environmental protection legislation, to stop the revealed violations and to impose appropriate liability on the guilty persons;
- 2 / to enter business entities and organizations and conduct inspections in order to monitor the implementation of legislation;
- 3 / to examine and temporarily confiscate documents of a citizen suspected of violating the legislation, to inspect his / her vehicle if necessary, and to confiscate weapons, hunting, picking and preparing items;
- 4) to suspend the activities of citizens, business entities and organizations that are carrying out activities that have a negative impact on the environment in violation of the legislation and protection procedures, to give them time-bound duties and tasks, and to make demands;
- 5) to have uniforms, insignia, weapons and equipment while performing their official duties.

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Article 32 Use of rangers

1. The State Central Administrative Body shall determine the types of weapons and equipment to be used by rangers working in special protected areas and the procedure for their use in consultation with the Central Police.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated December 19, 2008 /](#)

2. A ranger may use a weapon in the performance of his / her official duties in the following cases:
 - 1 / there is a real possibility that a criminal may cause harm to the life and health of a ranger;
 - 2 / wildlife has attacked in a way that may endanger the life and health of the ranger.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

Land use, research and analysis in special protected areas

Article 33 Land use in protected areas

1. Citizens, economic entities and organizations of Mongolia may use Strictly Protected Areas and National Park Restricted Zones, Nature Reserves and Monuments on a contractual basis in a form and manner that does not adversely affect the environment for specific purposes, terms and conditions.

2. It is prohibited for a foreign legal entity to use land in a special protected area for international organizations, foreign citizens, stateless persons or business entities with foreign investment.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this article shall not apply to foreign and international organizations operating in accordance with the project within the scope permitted by this law in the relevant protected area.

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Article 34 Land use period and land size

1. The term of a land use agreement specified in paragraph 1 of Article 33 of this Law shall not exceed 5 years and the term of one-time extension of this agreement shall not exceed 5 years.

2. The amount of land to be used by a citizen, business entity or organization shall be determined by the protected area administration or soum or district governor within the amount determined by the state central administrative body.

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Article 35 Apply for land use

1. Citizens, business entities and organizations shall submit their requests for land use to soum and district governors in special protected areas where no protected area administration has been established in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 8 of Article 44 of the Land Law.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated June 7, 2002 /](#)

2. The PA administration or Governor shall submit the request of a citizen, business entity or organization on land use and his / her proposal to the state central administrative body.

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Article 36 Make a decision on land use

1. The State Central Administrative Body shall make decisions on land use by citizens, economic entities and organizations from Strictly Protected Areas and National Park Restricted Zones, Nature Reserves and Monuments based on the proposal of the Protected Area Administration and soum and district governors.

2. If two or more persons apply for the use of the land, the choice shall be made taking into account the purpose of the land use, its impact on the environment, and the cost of environmental protection measures.

Z. The selection of citizens, economic entities and organizations applying for land use for tourism purposes shall be made taking into account the fact that the material base for tourism activities has reached international standards and standards.

4. The decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall clearly state the purpose, location, location, boundaries, size, and single or joint use of the land to be used.

5. In case of refusal to use land, the decision of the state central administrative body shall state the reasons and grounds for it.

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Article 37 Land use agreement

1. Soum and district governors shall conclude land use agreements with citizens, business entities and organizations themselves or in cooperation with the protection administration based on the decision specified in paragraph 1 of Article 36 of this Law.

2. In addition to those specified in paragraph 8 of Article 44 of the Land Law, the land use agreement shall include the following:

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated June 7, 2002 /](#)

1 / measures to be taken to preserve, protect and restore the original appearance of the land and funds to be spent on it;

2 / obligations related to land fees;

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated November 13, 2019 /](#)

3 / rights, duties and responsibilities of the parties with regard to land use and protection;

4 / conditions and procedures for redemption of land in case of termination of the contract, and procedures for rehabilitation, improvement and handover of the land.

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Article 38 Rights and obligations of land users

1. Citizens, business entities and organizations using land in special protected areas shall have the rights specified in Article 45 of the Law on Land.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated June 7, 2002 /](#)

2. In addition to the responsibilities set forth in Article 45 of the Law on Land, citizens, economic entities and organizations using land in special protected areas shall have the following responsibilities:

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated June 7, 2002 /](#)

1 / to take measures to preserve, protect and restore the original appearance of the land at its own expense;

2 / enter and exit the land taken for use in a designated manner;

3) to submit the relevant design to the state central administrative body and obtain permission if it is necessary to change the condition and purpose of the land used in connection with the activities specified in the law or contract;

4) upon the expiration of the land use right, rehabilitate and rehabilitate the land used and hand it over to the protected area administration or soum or district governor.

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Article 39 Prohibited activities for land users

1. Citizens, economic entities, entities and organizations using land in special protected areas are prohibited to carry out the following activities:

1) to use all or part of the land used by others;

2) to carry out activities other than those specified in this agreement or adversely affecting the environment, which are prohibited by this law and the protection regime of the special protected area.

2. In case of taking back the land from the user on the grounds specified by law, he / she may not be re-allocated from the special protected area.

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Article 40 Termination of land use rights

to vacate the land

1. The right to use land in a special protected area shall terminate in the following cases:

1 / on the grounds specified in Article 39 of the Land Law;

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated June 7, 2002 /](#)

2 / repeated or serious violations of the protection regime of the protected area.

2. Upon termination of land use rights, citizens, economic entities and organizations shall vacate the land they used and hand it over to the local protected area administration or soum or district governor within 90 days, unless otherwise provided in the agreement specified in Article 37 of this Law.

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Article 41 Organization and its role in conducting research in special protected areas

1. Organizations and foreign and international research organizations licensed by the state central administrative body may conduct research and analysis in special protected areas on a contractual basis.

2. The role of research and analysis organizations in special protected areas:

1) to comply with the legislation on special protected areas and protection procedures;

2 / to obtain appropriate permits and fees for conducting research and analysis;

3 / to carry out research and analysis in a manner that does not adversely affect the environment;

4) to report on research and analysis to the protection administration and the state central administrative body;

5) if damage has been caused to the environment during research and analysis, take measures to rehabilitate it and hand over the area to the protected area administration or soum or district governor.
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Chapter Eight other species

Article 42 State control

1. Specialized inspection bodies, protected area administrations and governors of all levels shall monitor the implementation of the legislation on special protected areas within their authority.

[/ This part was amended according to the law dated July 10, 2002 /](#)

2. State environmental inspectors shall monitor the implementation of the legislation on special protected areas and hold violators accountable within their authority.

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Article 43. Liability for violators of the law

1. A person or legal entity that violates this Law shall be subject to liability specified in the Criminal Code or the Law on Violations.

/ This article was amended according to the law dated December 04, 2015 /

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Article 44 Entry into force of the law

This law shall come into force on April 1, 1995.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONGOLIA N. BAGHABANDI

<https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/479?lawid=479>