GLACIER MONITORING: MONGOLIA

Glaciers in Mongolia have a significant role in local and regional water resources. The country lacks fundamental and reliable quantitative information on glacier changes.

Available series

- **Front variation observations**
- **Glaciological MB measurements**
- **Geodetic MB measurements**
- **Glacier inventories**

**Key statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Front Variation</th>
<th>Mass Balance</th>
<th>Thickness Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total glaciated area</td>
<td>352 km²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total coverage WGI</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>180%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total coverage GLIMS</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of series</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length [years]</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of observations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present state**

- No coordination of glacier research.
- No mass balance measurements available.
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- No front variation measurements or geodetic change assessments available.

**Future potential/needs**

- Start glacier monitoring and coordinate with glaciologists from neighbouring countries.
- Initiate glaciological mass balance measurements.
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- Encourage the use of remote sensing data for assessing glacier changes in length and volume.
- Region covered in the WGI as part of the Soviet Glacier Inventory and also covered in GLIMS.

**Spatial distribution of series**

Glaciers and ice caps in Mongolia are situated on the highest peaks of the Gobi-Altai mountain range. They occur in very cold and dry environments, where rain and snow are scarce.

No front variation, mass balance, and thickness change series are available from glaciers in Mongolia. Several glacier inventories have been compiled after 1980, providing full coverage of the glaciated area.