



Khorog, 29th of August 2007

1 Background and objectives of the conference

The Afghan and the Tajik Pamirs (Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast and Wakhan, Ishkashim, Shighnan, Darwaz Woluswali) form one eco-region, with similar natural resources, economic potentials and common ethnic and cultural roots.

The Pamirs can be described as a "knot" or an "orographic crux" from which several of Asia's main ranges-the Himalaya, Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Kunlun, and Tian Shan - radiate. Affinities with all these mountain ranges encourage a variety of species. The continental climate provides contrasting temperature regimes and seasonal precipitation with great variability over the years. Particularly severe climate is observed in the Eastern Pamirs, where mean annual air temperature is mainly negative, -1-6°C and average annual precipitation varies between 40 and 100mm. The high-mountain areas of the Western Pamirs are characterized by a more moderate climate. Here, mean annual air temperature is close to zero, rising up to +6+8°C in the lower reaches and precipitation varies between 200 and 500 mm. Most of the territory is barren land in rocky terrain. Combined with the harsh climatic conditions only marginal habitat for humans, fauna and flora exist. Arable land is estimated at less than 1 % of total land area in this semiarid to arid high mountain desert ecosystem. Alluvial fans and riverbanks are preferred locations of settlements and cultivable land. Water scarcity and a harsh temperature regime constrain biomass production. Predominant vegetation cover is sparse scrub or meadow plant communities on mountain slopes and mesophyllic forests (tugai) on riparian areas in valley bottoms. Although only few species are adapted to the extreme habitats in this arid high-mountain region, the Pamirs are renowned for their biodiversity and wildlife species, such as the Snow Leopard, Siberian Ibex or Marco Polo sheep.

In contrast to the semiarid and arid climate the main water resources of Central Asia are concentrated in the glaciers of the Pamirs. At present in the territory of Gorno Badakshan (GBAO) only less than 3 percent of water resources are used in agrarian and industrial sectors.

While land use patterns of the Western part of the Pamirs were traditionally dominated by irrigation cropping and terracing of slopes in combination with pasture land use, in the highland plateaus of the Eastern part mobile pastoral cattle-breeding is the main income generating activity. For more than 100 years, since the 1895 declaration of the Panj River as border line between the Russian Empire and Afghanistan, contact between the two sides was almost impossible. Completely different political framework conditions led to diverging approaches in using the natural resources.

Along with the Soviet collectivization and the idea of valorizing comparative advantages of the different agro-ecological zones in the Soviet Union it was determined to use the valleys of the Western Pamirs primarily for fodder making, in order to increase livestock production. To compensate for staple food and energy (mainly coal) was supplied by the Soviet System. As a consequence lots of traditional knowledge on irrigation cropping systems and farming practices got lost on the Tajik side. The long war history on the Afghan side left behind a completely underdeveloped infrastructure of motor roads, energy supply, education and health facilities etc. Large areas of Northern Afghanistan are cut off from the outside world for more than a six months winter period and have to rely entirely on their own capacity to produce sufficient food supply. Consequently land use practices seem to rely more on intensification and traditional know how.

Though since the breakdown of the Soviet Union and the abrupt absence of subsidies to the Tajik Pamirs, as well as the end of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, socio-economic framework conditions and problems in the both Pamirs became more similar again. Land-use related activities such as subsistence cropping, cattle-breeding and forestry are at present the most important branches of economy in the Pamirs. Free of charge delivery of coal for all households in the Pamirs ceased with the break down of the Soviet Empire and people nearly entirely depend on using scarce wood and manure to substitute the coal. Despite all effort to increase food production, in both Afghanistan and Tajikistan people struggle to meet needs for food and energy supply and they suffer increasingly from a severe energy crisis. On top the man made climate change already noticeably influences rural livelihoods.

Accordingly the problem of desertification is widespread at both sides of the Panj River. "Desertification" literally means "making deserts" and addresses the problem of deserts or degraded lands made by human activities, in the case of the Pamir mostly by overgrazing, overexploitation of natural resources for energy supply and unsustainable agricultural practices. It is a severe threat for the future sustainable development of both the Tajik and the Afghan Pamirs. Land degradation means, that biological or economic productivity and diversity or range of cropland, pasture, forest and woodlands are shrinking or being lost forever and thus result in poverty, malnutrition and migration.

In the meantime, many efforts by governmental and non-governmental structures were made to ignite a joint sustainable development of sides of the Pamirs. However still there are huge potentials and needs for closer co-operation. Luckily aside from the present problems on both sides of the Panj River exists a huge variety of traditional and modern "good practices" for sustainable land use practices. In the Afghan Pamirs many, forgotten at the Tajik side sustainable traditional land-use practices are still vital. Not least because of the prominent scientific capacities at the Tajik side sustainable land-use solution with potential for broad introduction emerged. Exchange, adaptation and broad dissemination of them have the potential to be of considerable impact to combat desertification and by this to reduce poverty and enhance economic development the Pamirs.

Overall Goal:

Authorities and the local population of Tajik and Afghan Pamirs (GBAO, Wakhan, Ishkashim, Shighnan, Darwaz Woluswali) apply sustainable land-use as well as value adding methods in planning and implementation, in order to increase food security, reduce extreme poverty (MDG 1) and regenerate natural resources, to avoid further desertification and to preserve the high mountain landscapes and its inherent biodiversity (MDG 7).

Conference Objectives:

1. An exchange of experience between interdisciplinary scientists, land users as well as relief and development practitioners, active in different fields of sustainable land-use on both sides of the Panj River gives impulses for the development of strategies to combat desertification as well as coordinates, multiplies and enhances current efforts.
2. The initiation of a interdisciplinary network formed by scientists and practitioners, active in the Afghan and the Tajik Pamirs ensures further co-operation, exchange of experience and application of scientific findings in practical solution of land-use related problems.

Outputs:

1. Presentations on land-use related problems and “good practices” are given and discussed by scientists and practitioners, active in the Afghan and the Tajik Pamirs.
2. Except enabling practical experiences and exchange of opinions, excursions to different GTZ CCD project sites offer great opportunities to establish personal contacts for the intended network on sustainable land-use in the Pamirs.
3. The conference results as well as the network member contacts are documented and distributed to all stakeholders.
4. On basis of the conference participants’ inputs a practical brochure is edited, published and distributed to organizations active in the field of sustainable land use.

2 Conference Program

Wednesday 29th of August

All participants in plenum

- **8.00-9.00:** Registration of participants / exhibition
- **9.00-9.30:** Opening words by representatives of authorities and organizing organizations
- **9.30-10.50:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below)
Section 1: Ecological, political, cultural framework conditions for sustainable land-use in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs
- **10.50-11.20** Coffee Break
- **11.20-12.10** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 1: Ecological, political, cultural framework conditions for sustainable land-use in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs
- **12.10-13.30:** Lunch
- **13.30-14.50:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 1: Ecological, political, cultural framework conditions for sustainable land-use in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs
- **14.50-15.10:** Coffee Break
- **15.10-18.30:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 1: Ecological, political, cultural framework conditions for sustainable land-use in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs
- **19.30:** Dinner

Section 1: Ecological, Political, Cultural Framework Conditions for Sustainable Land-Use in the Tajik and Afghan Pamirs

Time	Name	Institution	Presentation topic
9.30 – 9.50	Hermann Kreutzmann	ZELF, Free University of Berlin, Germany	Geographic comparison of pasture landuse patterns in the Afghan and Tajik Pamirs.
10.00 – 10.20	Taniwal M. Zarif	University of Kabul, Afghanistan	Physical description of the Afghan Pamirs.
10.30 – 10.50	Ghafory Abdul Samad	Faculty of Geological Science	Political, administrative, societal, economic and traditional structures in the population of the Afghan Pamirs.
11.20 – 11.40	Katja Mielke	Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung Bonn, Germany, Kunduz, Afghanistan	Power and local decision making structures for Natural Resource Management – Bottom up vs. top down dissemination of innovation – Research evidence from Northeastern Afghanistan.
11.50 – 12.10	Todzhedin Gadamamadov	Focus Afghanistan, Khorog, Tajikistan	Comparison of 2 villages in Afghan Badakhshan and GBAO: social, political and psychologic aspects as well as the role of women for sustainable land management.
13.30 – 13.50	Boimamad Alibakhshov	Association “Milal-Inter”, Khorog, Tajikistan	Economic potential of co-operation in the field of agriculture between Afghan Badakhshan and GBAO.
14.00 – 14.20	Andreas Herrmann	University of Technology Braunschweig, Germany	Possible impacts of climate change on ecosystems and agriculture in the Pamirs.
14.30 – 14.50	Karim-Aly Kassam	Environmental and Indigenous Studies Department of Natural Resources Cornell University, USA	Concerns of villagers in the Pamirs related to sustainable livelihoods.
15.10 – 15.30	Dovutsho Navruzshoev	University of Central Asia, Khorog, Tajikistan	Biodiversity of vegetation of Gorno-Badakhshan and neighbouring countries (Afghanistan, China and Kyrgyzstan). Research results and conclusions.
15.40 – 16.00	Kozimamad Abdulamonov	Pamir Biological Institute, Khorog, Tajikistan	Biodiversity in agraric landscapes of Afghan and Tajik Badakhshan – research results and conclusions.
16.10 – 16.30	Azimsho Bakhromov	MSDSP Khorog, Tajikistan	Lessons learnt from the agriculture reform in GBAO – next steps.
16.40 – 17.00	Bernt Glatzer	Afghanistan Research Group (ARG), Germany	Good and bad practices of land use in West Afghanistan.
17.10 – 17.30	Cyrus Samimi, Kim Vanselow	University Erlangen, Germany	Potential and challenges for sustainable pasture and rangeland use.
17.40-18.00	Tobias Kraudzun	ZELF, Free University of Berlin, Germany	Institutional changes in pasture management in the Eastern Pamirs after the breakdown of the Soviet Union.
18.10-18.30	Ted Callahan	Wildlife Conservation Society, Afghanistan	A brief overview of the pastoral strategies of the Afghan Kyrgyz - past and present.

Thursday 30th of August 2007

Participants can choose different presentations in two thematic panels (Section 2, Section 3)

Panel A

- **8.30-10.00:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below)
Section 2: Sustainable Land-Use and Alternative Income Generation Opportunities & Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency
- **10.00-10.30:** Coffee break
- **10.30-12.30:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below)
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Section 2: Sustainable Land-Use and Alternative Income Generation Opportunities & Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency
- **15.20-15.50:** Coffee Break
- **15.50-17.10:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below)
Section 2: Sustainable Land-Use and Alternative Income Generation Opportunities & Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency, *Panel B*, **Section 3**.
- **18.00:** Conference closing and conclusions
- **18.30-19.00:** Film “Soil Degradation and Poverty”
- **19.30:** Dinner and cultural programme

Section 2: Sustainable Land-Use and Alternative Income Generation Opportunities & Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency

Время	Ф.И.О.	Организация	Тема презентации
8.30 – 8.50	Valeriya Tyumeneva	German Development Service / ACTED in Tajikistan	Successes and constraints of the Murghab Ecotourism Association.
9.00 – 9.30	Marielle Leseur	MSDSP Khorog	Cross border tourism in Afghan and Tajik Pamirs.
9.40 – 10.00	Yorali Berdov	De Pamiri Handicraft, Khorog, Tajikistan	Community based handicraft production – A basis for alternative income generation, revival of tradition and culture in the Pamirs and awareness raising for sustainable use of natural resources.
10.30 – 10.50	Paula Moor	GTZ CCD Pilot Project, Khorog, Tajikistan	Experiences in home based milk, wool and leather processing.
11.00 – 11.20	Rustam Zevarshoev Paula Moor	GTZ CCD Pilot Project, Khorog, Tajikistan	Value adding to raw products from wild growing natural resources.
11.30 – 11.50	Taigunsho Bulbulshoev	Academy of Agricultural Science, Khorog Department, Tajikistan	Investigation on pest insects species in Afghan Darvaz – practical conclusions.
12.00 – 12.20	Tohir Kamolov	Agrar University Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Perspectives for the use of alternative energy sources in marginal mountain areas.
13.30 – 13.50	Mirzo Podshoev	CAMP Kuhiston, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Technology and methods to save energy.
14.00 – 14.20	Ermek Baibagyshov	CAMP Alattoo, Agrar University Bishkek	Development and advantages of Village Energy Strategies.
14.30 – 14.50	Geoffrey Hathaway	SEEDs –Social Enterprise and Ecological Development System	Energy efficiency as economic and social value – the example of more efficient stoves.
15.00 – 15.20	André Fabian	GTZ CCD Pilot Project, Khorog, Tajikistan	Good experiences of affordable thermoinsulation of private and public houses – next steps of dissemination.
15.50 – 17.10	Panel B, Section 3	Panel B, Section 3	

Panel B

- **8.30-9.50:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 3: Experiences from programs, practical tools and approaches for sustainable land management
- **9.50-10.20:** Coffee break
- **10.30-12.30:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 3: Experiences from programs, practical tools and approaches for sustainable land management
- **12.30-13.30:** Lunch
- **13.30-15.20:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 3: Experiences from programs, practical tools and approaches for sustainable land management
- **15.20-15.50:** Coffee Break
- **15.50-17.10:** Presentation and discussion (20 min each, see table below):
Section 3: Experiences from programs, practical tools and approaches for sustainable land management
- **18.00:** Conference closing and conclusions
- **18.30-19.00:** Film “Soil Degradation and Poverty”
- **19.30:** Dinner and cultural program

Section 3: Experiences from programs, practical tools and approaches for sustainable land management

Time	Name	Organisation	Presentation topic
8.30 – 8.50	Murod Ergashev	CAMP Kuhiston, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Soil and Water Conservation Technology and Approaches.
9.00 – 9.20	Ermek Baibagyshev	CAMP Alatoo, Agrar University Bishkek	Approach of CAMP Network: Village Development Planning Process.
9.30 – 9.50	Bernhard Schmidt	IDEAS Project, German Agro Action, Kabul, Afghanistan	Forest rehabilitation through an integrated rural development approach in the upper catchments of the Kunduz river basin.
10.20 – 10.40	Bunafsha Mislimgasheva	GTZ CCD Pilot Project, Khorog, Tajikistan	Joint Forest Management Approach – first results and potential for Forest Management in GBAO.
10.50 – 11.10	Murod Ergashev	CAMP Alatoo, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	A participatory tool for improved community based pasture and rangeland management.
11.20 – 11.40	Imatbek Nikhmonov	AKF Afghanistan, Agriculture Department, Faizabad, Khorog, Afghanistan, Tajikistan	Rangeland and forest rehabilitation in Afghan Badakhshan / Rangeland rehabilitation on degraded land.
11.50 – 12.10	Sanginboy Sanginov	Slope land management techniques and Soil Institute of Tajikistan	Soil degradation and slope management.
13.30 – 13.50	Rakhmonkul Rakhmatilloev	CAWMP	Management of water and land resources and protection of land in mountain areas.
14.00 – 14.20	Khudodod Aknazarov	Pamir Biological Institute, Khorog, Tajikistan	Current condition of Teresken pasture land in the Eastern Pamirs and methods for its rehabilitation.
14.30 – 14.50	Rodney Jackson and Nandita Jain	Snow Leopard Conservancy	Community based approaches to wildlife conservancy in high arid environments – snow leopard conservancy.
15.00 – 15.20	Abdul Qadir Noori	AKF Afghanistan, Afghanistan	Strategy for sustainable improvement in livestock through Farmers Field School concept.
15.50 – 16.10	Azlisho Nazarbekov	AKF Afghanistan, Khorog, Tajikistan	FRA participatory technology development: bird breeding.
16.20 – 16.40	Dovud Solaimonov	AKF Afghanistan, Darvaz, Tajikistan	Gardening in Badakhshan.
16.50 – 17.10	Azlisho Nazarbekov	AKF Afghanistan, Khorog, Tajikistan	Cattle Breeding Program in Afghan Badakhshan.

Friday 31st of August

1- Day Excursion for external guests to:

- Barvoz (Roshtkala Rayon): Joint Forest Management Approach
- Midencharv (Roshtkala Rayon): Mini manufacture for skin and wool processing
- Tavdem (Roshtkala Rayon): Community organization and mobilizing

Saturday 01st of September

- Departure of guests