



Project: Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk

“PAMIR”

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Information bulletin

In August 2011, meetings and field-visits were organized in Khorog (Tajikistan) and Osh (Kyrgyzstan) by the forestry expert of **Hilfswerk Austria International**, Dr. Knauft. Representatives of regional active development agencies and environmental institutions discussed ways to implement the proposed pilot-plantations and tree-nurseries and visited appropriate sites.



The first meeting was held with the participation of Leskhoz GBAO and the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It resulted in a “Memorandum of Understanding” specifying the rules for the practical implementation of pilot-plantations and the extension of the Leskhoz tree-nursery Ishkashim.

A second meeting with MSDSP Kyrgyzstan was held in Osh and complemented by field visits to the Chon-Alai. These led to an Addendum to the current Cooperation Agreement between MSDSP KG and Hilfswerk Austria International. It also specifies the implementation rules for pilot-plantations and community tree-nurseries in the Chon-Alai.



For the pilot-plantations mountain slopes will be fenced with at least two different fencing or wall systems to protect the new trees from damages by livestock. Here preferably locally available materials will be used. In spring 2012 trees of locally adapted species will be planted on the site. Later these plantations can serve as training-examples.

In parallel to the plantation, tree-nursery capacities will be developed. Leskhoz staff and communities will be trained to produce seedlings and planting material of various local tree species as juniper, spruce or birch additionally to the traditional willow and poplar.



IAG-BOKU is implementing the field work of the remote geohazards assessment during the entire month of August 2011. Based on a remote sensing-supported pre-assessment which was done in spring and on the findings from four **helicopter surveys** of potentially hazardous areas, three teams of scientists are currently carrying out different types of investigations. Each team includes both local experts and IAG-BOKU specialists in order to ensure the **exchange of experiences** from both sides.

- **Group 1** investigates potentially **hazardous slopes** on both sides of the Panj Valley (Tajik-Afghan border) and near the Tajik-Kyrgyz border in the Kyzylsu Valley. Besides an assessment of direct impacts of landslides on villages and roads, the focus is put on possible large landslides with a potential to dam the valleys and to retain lakes. During the work in Afghanistan, one young Afghan geologist received training in field techniques by the IAG-BOKU experts.
- **Group 2** assesses potentially **hazardous glacial lakes** in both border areas. Sudden drainage of such lakes may be caused by several reasons and has led to considerable fatalities and damage in the past. During the field work in Kyrgyzstan, field training was provided to one young Kyrgyz geologist.
- **Group 3** carries out **geophysical surveys** of two slow-moving landslides in the village of Tusion near the Tajik-Afghan border. The internal structure of the landslide bodies, the reasons for their movement, the probability of a future acceleration and the possible impacts on the village are investigated using a combination of geoseismic and geoelectric methods. The geoseismic equipment was provided by IAG-BOKU and will be handed over to the Tajik Main Department of Geology at the end of the project. During the surveys, specialists from this department are trained how to use the equipment.

The field studies will be completed at the end of August 2011. Based on the surveys of each of the groups, scenarios of possible hazardous situations will be elaborated afterwards, using e.g. **computer modelling**, and **recommendations** how to mitigate the resulting risks will be provided.



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Materials, comments and suggestions can be sent to the following e-mail address: aslanov@hilfswerk.tj or 156, M. Tursunzade Str., Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Tel: (+992) 372 28 93 85.

