



Project: Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk

May, June-July (1)  
2012

“PAMIR”

## Information bulletin #6

### Hilfswerk Austria International in Tajikistan

Five different workshops at the village level have been organized on “Sustainable Mountainous Land Management (SMLM)” by the international project coordinator Ms. Gulnaz Jalilova between 10-30<sup>th</sup> of June in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The main objective of these workshops was to identify the land use practices from socio-economic and ecological perspectives and to generate preferable criteria and indicators (C&I) for SMLM framework for each of these villages.



The research sites were selected from each country according to the number of population, vulnerability and accessibility of communities to natural resources. The bottom-up approaches were employed to enhance the participation of various stakeholders for their ownership in decision making processes.



In total, 130 participants have actively attended the workshops. All participants have been discussed the different elements of land use management including access to land, education, income generation, outmigration and gender equality. At the end of the workshop, a draft list of C&I has been developed and evaluated by all participants. The final list of C&I will be finalized and presented in April 2013 after using multi criteria analysis techniques.



A second monitoring mission to the project target regions in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan was conducted by Ms. Rakhilya Nurbaeva from the ECORYS –Research and Consulting Company of the European Commission between 12-27<sup>th</sup> of July. An international project coordinator Ms. Gulnaz Jalilova and the head of Hilfswerk Austria International in Tajikistan Mr. Umed Aslanov have accompanied the mission in all target regions.



The main objective of the mission was to screen the ongoing project activities in terms of different aspects as relevancy, efficiency, effectiveness, impact prospects, horizontal and cross cutting issues. The series of discussions and meetings have been organized during the mission. The project stakeholders took part at different levels including local communities and PAMIR project staff. In addition, field visits have been organized to the forestry demonstration plots, which are being implementing by the project partners and local farmers. The feedback and recommendations from the monitoring will be fruitful to improve and implement the project activities in more efficient way.



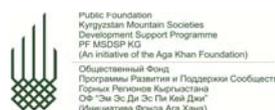
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### Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), Kyrgyzstan

The 1<sup>st</sup> roundtable meeting on “Enhancing Disaster Risk Management Coordination Mechanism” took place on 12<sup>th</sup> June, in Daroot-Korgon village of Chong-Alai district. The total 31 participants gathered in the round table including pertinent government officials, MSDSP KG staff, representatives from the Ministry for Emergency Situations, Civil Protection Commission, NGOs and PAMIR international project coordinator. The participants were introduced to the objectives and activities of the PAMIR project as well as highlighted the disaster risk reduction (DRR) related projects implemented in Chong-Alai district. MSDSP KG presented project activities implemented in Chong-Alai district up to date, including Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HSVRA) in six villages. As a result of the roundtable, the participants decided to organize coordination meetings on a quarterly basis, which would involve NGOs and other interested parties with the aim to enhance stakeholders’ coordination in DRR in Chong-Alai district.



On 25 June 2012, coordination and networking meeting was held in Bishkek with the National Scientific Technical Council (NSTC). The meeting involved 15 members of various institutes of the NSTC and four representatives of MSDSP KG. During the meeting, scientists from the Kyrgyz Institute of Seismology provided information on seismic activities in Kyrgyzstan from January 2012 to date and forecasts for the rest of the year. Representatives from Kyrgyz Hydrometeorology discussed the situation of avalanches in the country. Also, MSDSP KG presented the PAMIR project expectations and the HSVRA methodology to the NSTC with aiming to collect their feedback and recommendations. NSTC members showed great interest in the project and expressed their readiness for collaboration on any DRR issues. They also requested to receive the HSVRA findings when it will be finalized and committed to take into account the seismology issues of the Chong Alai region.



In May 2012, MSDSP KG staff and a representative of Leskhoz in Chong-Alai district visited to Jerge-Tal district, Tajikistan for the reasons to establish demonstration plots in Chong-Alai district. During their visit, they also purchased apple, cherry, and pear seedlings based on the recommendation of experts from Leskhoz which was considered mainly weather conditions in Jerge-Tal is similar as Chong-Alai and with expecting the survival of seedlings would be high. Seeds were purchased from a local forestry enterprise in Jalal-Abad district. Local gardeners, along with Leskhoz representatives, demonstrated and planted all purchased seeds and seedlings from May 7 to 10 in Putoo and Nichke-Suu plantations areas as well as established three nurseries in Karamyk Village of Chong-Alai district.



The following numbers of seedlings were planted in the target areas:

- Putoo plantation – 440 apples and 400 poplar seedlings;
- Nichke-Suu plantation – 3,750 willow seedlings;
- 1<sup>st</sup> nursery in Karamyk Village –120 apples, 10 pears, and 15 cherry seedling;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> nursery in Karamyk Village –120 apples, 10 pears, 15 cherry seedlings;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> nursery in Karamyk village – 120 apple, 10 pear, and 20 cherry seedlings.

MSDSP KG provided nursery manual for gardeners, which is related for the cultivation of seedlings. In addition, MSDSP KG has provided fencing construction materials to nursery owners and Chong Alai Leskhoz. Process of fencing within the established nurseries and plantations areas are now completed. Till today, regular monitoring is going on and the germination of seedlings is at a rate of 90%.



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## Focus Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan

**Afghan PAMIR team** remained in their boots from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to carry out the Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessments (HSVRA) in 19 villages of Shughnan district. During this phase of assessments, the team was joined by two government interns, one from the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) of Badakhshan province and the other from the Cadastre department of Badakhshan.



One of these interns Mr. Zia Ahmad stated: “First when I was introduced to the rest of the team in the field by the team leader and seeing the (harsh) geography of the area, I trembled in fear but I was determined and said to myself that ‘real learning’ happens in the field. And so I convinced myself to roll up my sleeves and get to learn and work”.

Appreciating the friendly and motivated working environment in the field and in the office, the second intern Abdul Maqsood of ANDMA remarked: “The data that’s gathered by the social mobilizer and the technical team is ‘awesome’ and ‘comprehensive’”. He is both delighted and amazed at what he calls ‘professional attitude’ in FOCUS project employees.



The team’s morale remained high during this extensive phase of back-to-back detailed assessments. The visit of PAMIR international project coordinator to Shughnan district brought further delight to the team members. Everyone in the team would take pride in explaining to the coordinator their role in the team and the process of their work in the field.

## Institute of Applied Geology of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria

**The first master thesis** on “Comparison of remote sensing based and ground based methods for the generation of digital elevation models” has been completed. Ms. Christoph Waldhör successfully passed his final exam on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Two further master theses (Gisi Domej: *Geophysical investigations of an active landslide body in the area of Tusion* and Johannes Müller: *Spatio-temporal development of Glacial Lakes in the headwaters of the Amu-Darya river*) are on a good way and will be completed within the next months.

The distribution, development and characteristics of high-mountain lakes in the PAMIR study area (including the upper portions of the relevant catchments) is also the subject of a manuscript which has recently been submitted to the highly-ranked international journal *Global and Planetary Change*. Furthermore, the outcomes of the analysis are also presented at the *International Geological Congress* in Brisbane, Australia, in the beginning of August (invited lecture) and at the *Himalaya-Karakorum-Tibet Workshop* in Kathmandu, Nepal, at the end of November, 2012.

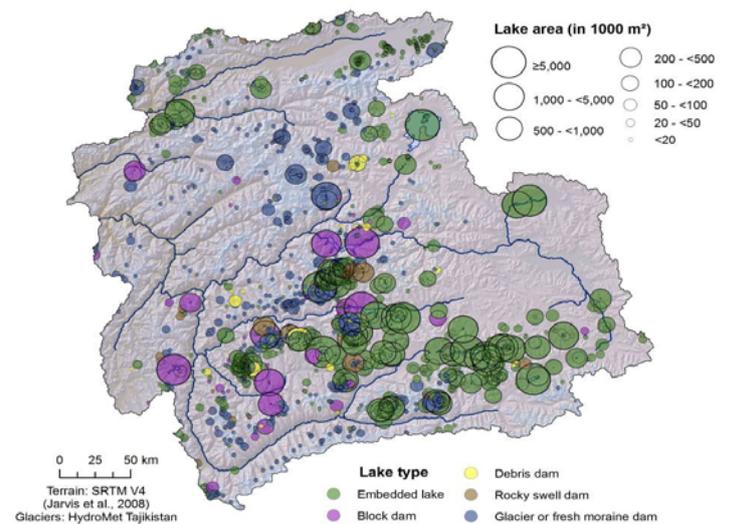


Figure: more than 1600 lakes of five different types were mapped in the PAMIR project area (including the upper parts of the relevant catchments). Approx. 650 lakes are directly related to existing glaciers. This database is used for evaluating the GLOF hazard

The outcome of the lake mapping and analysis efforts is currently used to evaluate the degree of hazard emanating from high-mountain lakes in the area, including the delineation of possible impact areas of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and the definition of priority areas for mitigation measures. In addition to the lakes, also the possible effects of melting permafrost and of rock-ice avalanches will be evaluated.

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