

Role of Pasture User Unions in the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Pastures in Tajikistan

Transfer project in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

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Executive Summary

This Transfer Project (TP) was developed in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship (KTF) Programme for Future Leaders in Nature Conservation from the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The TP outlines the proposed guidebook to improve pasture resources in Tajikistan.

Uncontrolled grazing and an increase in the number of livestock in our country are becoming a major problem, because of degradation of pastures and reduced range of some threatened species. Similar problems can be observed in all Central Asian countries. In this regard, a Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia, which has been implemented by GIZ on behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development since 2013, promotes dialogue between all stakeholders within the Tajik Pasture Management Networking Platform (PMNP). This TP is relevant for all members of the platform, which includes more than 20 different organizations to date.

Therefore, the goal of this TP was to create a guidebook for ordinary pasture users and established pasture user unions (PUUs), which will help to strengthen the knowledge on sustainable pasture management and regulate grazing by taking into account the productivity of pastures.

A PUU is a union of pasture users established at the Jamoat (rural municipality) level, which consists of a cluster of villages. It is a formal organization, with a statute and legal registration, and has a stamp and a bank account. In its organizational set-up it consists of a chairman, a treasurer, a secretary and the ordinary members. The advantage for pasture users to be organized in a Pasture User Union is that they can work together to solve the current problems and plan future joint activities. For instance: organize mass vaccination of the entire livestock in the community, control livestock grazing, monitor state of pastures, repair a bridge or rehabilitate the roads, and most importantly protect the interests of each member of the PUU regarding secure access to pastures.

To achieve the goal of the project, the following activities were implemented:

- The steps of organizing PUUs as well as the time and the costs required were identified;
- The trend of PUU creation in Tajikistan was analysed;

- A simplified pasture management plan (PMP) for PUUs has been proposed by stakeholders at the workshop which was held on 15 November 2016 with participation of PMNP members;

This TP helped to identify current problems and solutions based on a range of information from different sources. These sources included practical and theoretical knowledge from various literatures, interviews with local and international experts and a number of field visits to areas where PUUs were created.