

# **Biodiversity conservation by introducing efficient low cost technologies in the Eastern Pamirs**

Transfer project in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme

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## **Executive summary**

Murghab district located in the Eastern Pamirs in above 4000 m altitude is well known as one of the most difficult regions for people to live. Fluctuating temperatures, heavy and long cold winters bring lots of challenges to the local population to survive during the long winters. The main challenge of the residents of Murghab district is insufficient supplies of fuel and other sources that can be used to heat their houses. During the Soviet times local people of Murghab had been fully provided with fuel materials and the level of life quality was quiet good. After the collapse of the Soviet Union with the subsequent economic crises in the entire country, delivery of fuel materials to the peoples of Murghab district was stopped and demand for energy increased. People started to use the local shrub named "teresken" as the main bio fuel. In last 20 years nearly 37,000 hectares of teresken pastures were degraded caused by teresken overexploitation by the local population. Overuse of teresken has negatively impacted the ecosystem and the livelihood of the people.

The transfer project has been developed and implemented in the framework of the Klaus Toepfer Fellowship Programme. The objectives of the transfer project were to increase the environmental awareness of the Eastern Pamirs population on the impact of the desertification on their livelihood and to accelerate the process of adaptation and dissemination of innovative technologies that contribute to the prevention of biodiversity loss.

In close cooperation with the Centre for Sustainable and Innovative Technologies (CSIT) and a local NGO, information leaflets and the demonstration mock-ups of innovative technologies have been developed. Environmental awareness training has been conducted with a small groups of residents of Murghab district. Innovative technology models were demonstrated and an information leaflet has been distributed to local population. Practically, with the support of the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) two classrooms and one private house were thermo insulated for testing and demonstration purposes. The owners were satisfied with the introduced technologies and the proven savings of fuel materials.