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THE EbA PROJECT PROMOTES ADAPTATION OF PAMIRS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

In mid-May, the 4th Adaptation Futures 2016 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference was held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Along with representatives of more than 100 countries, the conference was attended by the Director of the CAMP Tabiat Public Foundation, Umed Bulbulshoev. CAMP Tabiat is a Tajik branch of the Public Foundation CAMP Alatoo in Kyrgyzstan. He made a presentation of the regional project "Ecosystem –based Adaptation to Climate Change in High Mountainous Regions of Central Asia" (EbA), which is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) of the Republic of Tajikistan.

We asked U. Bulbulshoyev to give a brief account of the conference, the EBA project and CAMP Tabiat activities in the Pamirs.

What topics and areas were the focus of the 4th International Conference in the Netherlands?

The 4th Adaptation Futures 2016 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference was organized by the European Commission and the Government of the Netherlands within the framework of PROVIA (Global Climate Change Vulnerability, Impact and Adaptation Research Program). It was attended by scientists, experts, politicians and entrepreneurs from more than 100 countries. The conference is a platform for exchanging ideas and experiences on climate change issues.

The conference agenda included the following topics and areas: 1. Cities and infrastructure. Food, forestry and rural livelihoods. 3. Access to fresh water. 4. Health care. Ecosystems and ecosystem-based adaptation. 6. disaster risk reduction. 7. Arctic. The conference agenda included plenary sessions on science, practice and policy. In addition, thematic exhibitions and a business fair were held, where participants presented their projects and exchanged information, knowledge and experience.

Can you tell us about your presentation, please?

During the conference, I made a presentation on "Local perspectives on integrating climate risk information into ecosystem-based adaptation at the village level". I presented to the conference participants the process of practical implementation of the regional project "Ecosystem –based Adaptation to Climate Change in High Mountainous Regions of Central Asia" (EbA) in the pilot area in Tajikistan - Siponj and Darjomj villages of the Bardang valley in Gorno-Badakhshan. It should be noted that one of the important tasks of the EbA project is to test innovative and cost-effective approaches in the pilot areas, which were selected according to geographical, biophysical, socio-ecological and socio-economic criteria. In the course of the presentation I told about how in the process of training workshops GIZ and CAMP Tabiat specialists together with local residents analyze the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to climate change and develop ideas for improved adaptation to climate change based on the ecosystem approach.

Please inform our readers more about the EbA project.

The EbA regional project is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). The project started in Tajikistan last November and will last until May 2019. It is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The political partner of the project is the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. GIZ plays a leading and coordinating role in the implementation of project activities, working closely with six consortium partners and other scientific and development partners. CAMP Tabiat is one of the GIZ partners in the implementation of the EbA project in Tajikistan.

What is adaptation based on the ecosystem approach?

The ecosystem approach to climate change adaptation helps people to adapt by reducing risk or vulnerability associated with current and projected climate impacts. The fact is that biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute to increasing resilience to climate change. However, this happens only when nature itself is able to adapt to climate change. Ecosystem adaptation is most effective when combined with other approaches, as nature alone cannot cope with all the adverse effects.

The EbA project aims to support local authorities and the public in the effective management of ecosystems in order to preserve them and the services they provide. Joint actions are expected to increase the capacity of the country and its people to adapt to climate change.

Please explain to our readers what are ecosystem services?

Ecosystem services are the benefits that nature provides to human society, such as food, raw materials, protection from soil erosion, landslides and mudslides, conservation of genetic diversity, etc.

What do you think is the main advantage of an ecosystem approach?

I am confident that this approach makes a positive contribution to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, reduction of land degradation and mitigation of climate change, as well as promotes economic efficiency.

I think many of our readers will be interested in learning more about CAMP Tabiat's activities. What are the main goals and objectives of your organization?

The CAMP Tabiat Public Foundation was established in Gorno-Badakhshan in December 2013 as a branch of CAMP Alatau. The main objective of CAMP Tabiat is to promote sustainable development of mountainous regions of Tajikistan. We support local people in mountainous regions in the areas of sustainable use of forests and integrated management of natural resources by raising their awareness and capacity. Our fund also develops approaches and technologies for sustainable use of natural resources, forest restoration, integrated land resources management and adaptation to climate change based on ecosystems. CAMP Tabiat also promotes cooperation between government agencies and natural resource users and supports policy dialogue among stakeholders.

Thank you for the interview!

