

October, 2017

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN DUSHANBE

The seminar dedicated to the discussion of success factors of integrated forest management was held in Dushanbe on October 6, 2017 with the participation of experts from government agencies, public and international organizations.

The seminar was organized by the regional program "Sustainable and Climate Sensitive Land Use for Economic Development in Central Asia", which is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) on behalf of the German Government, and the CAMP Tabiat Public Foundation.

During the event, a training module on integrated forest management at the community level involved in joint forest management (JFM) and a project to assess the behavior of local people in relation to the JFM approach were presented. The Caritas, ACTED and CESVI organizations involved in the implementation of this approach also presented the results of their work.

In the afternoon, participants split into two groups and discussed the challenges and prospects for success factors in the JFM approach, as well as the mechanisms of the adapted management plan and the annual plan for joint forest management.

Climate change risk and natural disasters, inadequate local infrastructure and the need to harmonize annual plans with different structures were identified as difficulties and challenges. According to the participants, in order to achieve success in the JFM, it is necessary to link the forest ticket with the plans and rotation in the field of pasture use, the establishment of harvesting and sale of fodder by forest users to pasture users, coordination of plans and monitoring at the village level, etc.

Ulan Kasimov, an expert from the Humboldt University Berlin, called on those present to be sensitive to the inhabitants of the JFM areas involved in deforestation, as this is their traditional place of residence and form of survival. "It is impossible to fight against deforestation only by toughening penalties and fines. We need mechanisms for their involvement in the JFM and active explanatory work," Kasimov added.

According to Farkhor Chief Forestry Officer Davlat Saidov, an important factor in the success of forest conservation in Kyrgyzstan is the fact that the pastures that are managed by the forestry sector are not part of the general republican pasture fund, and belong to private individuals and this is exactly what is missing in Tajikistan.

Fotima Sharipova, chairman of the Penjekent-based NGO "Zanoni Sharq", noted that the seminar was fruitful and very useful. "It was a good opportunity to exchange views and learn more about annual and management plans," said Fotima. She also mentioned that "since last year, we have started implementing a project on women's involvement in the JFM in four districts of Pendjikent, and the success was greater than we expected. We need to build it up, and it would be good if such training on developing management plans was also provided to our women."

