

# Proceedings of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan

“Central Asian Exchange for Ecosystems and Disaster  
Linkages”



10-14 November 2014

**A Kyrgyz proverb:**

“Eldin bashy bolboi suunun bashy bol”

“Don’t be the head of people, but be the head of water”

**Abbreviations**

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
DRMP	Disaster Risk Management Programme
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UCA	University of Central Asia
MSRI	Mountain Societies Research Institute
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan
AMD	Afghanistan Meteorological Department
KU	Kabul University of Afghanistan
MoEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Kyrgyzstan
SAEPF	State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry
FOCUS	Focus Humanitarian Assistance
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
MSDSP	Mountain Societies Development Support Programme
KHC	Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorological Centre
COES	Committee of Emergency Situations
COP21	Conference of Parties 21
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
Eco-DRR	Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction
AFKN-CAPE	Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Network and Committee for Protection of the Environment
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland



MDG	Millennium Development Goals
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
WB	World Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank
EC	European Commission
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in Afghanistan
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
MEW	Ministry of Energy and Water in Afghanistan
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
GBAO	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Programme
VDMP	Village Development Management Plan
VDP	Village Development Plan
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies
WRF Model	Weather Research and Forecasting Model
LDN	Landlocked Developing Nations
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
G77	Group of 77 countries
EWS	Early Warning Systems
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Committee
SPLM	Special Preventive and Liquidating Measures
GHG	Green House Gases
SNC	Second National Communication



NSDS National Sustainable Development Plan  
 USAID United States Agency for International Development  
 CBDRM Community Based Disaster Risk Management

## Contents

No	Title	Page No.
1	Map of Kyrgyzstan	1
2	Study Tour Banner	2
3	Executive Summary	3
4	Background to the Study Tour	4
5	Expected Output of the Study Tour	5
6	Study Tour Structure and Organization	6
7	Study Tour Participants	9
8	Presentation Topics	11
9	<b>Day 1 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming Speech by HW, Director of MSRI, UCA</li> <li>• Introduction to the Study Tour by ZB, UNEP/UCA Facilitator</li> <li>• Hosting the Study Tour by AAM, Assistant Professor at Kabul University</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on the session</li> <li>• Presentation on Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment of Naryn Town – Remote Hazards Assessment, by NSV (MSDSP-AKDN)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on NSV’s Presentation</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on NSV’s presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks of the session by AAM</li> </ul>	12
10	<b>Day 2 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Statement by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on MSDSP Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn by RY (MSDSP-AKDN)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on RY’s Presentation</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on RY’s presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks of the session by AS</li> </ul>	15
11	<b>Day 3 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Statement by AS</li> <li>• Work-group on Preparation of Eco-DRR Work-plan for three countries</li> <li>• Site Visit to the Sopuev Erkinbek Kindergarten</li> <li>• Closing Remarks of the Day by AS</li> </ul>	18
12	<b>Day 4 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Issyk Kul Area</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Statement at Issyk Kul by AS</li> <li>• Explanation of Role of Ecosystems in Issyk Kul Area of Kyrgyzstan by AS, ZB, TK</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	21

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing Remarks at Issyk Kul by AS</li> <li>2. <u>Meeting at Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorological Centre</u></li> <li>• Opening Statement at Kyrgyz Hydrometeorological Centre by AS</li> <li>• Explanation of Activities of Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre by KM, ZA, NT, SA, IA, LA, CT</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on KHC Officials' Explanations:</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on KHC Officials' Explanations:</li> <li>• Closing Remarks at Kyrgyz Hydrometeorological Centre by AS</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Day 5 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <u>Presentation Session</u></li> <li>❖ Opening Statement by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on UNEP's Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan by AAM (UNEP, KU)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on AAM's Presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on AAM's Presentation, by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on FOCUS's DRR Project in Tajikistan by EK (FOCUS)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on EK's Presentation</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on EK's presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on EK's Presentation, by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on SECO Infrastructure Financing Program in the Kyrgyz Republic by TK (SDC)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on TK's Presentation</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on TK's presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on TK's Presentation by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on DRR/DRM Projects of GIZ by EO (GIZ)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on EO's Presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on EO's Presentation, by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on Role of Kyrgyzstan's State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) by IS (SAEPF)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on IS's Explanation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on IS's Presentation, by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on UNDP's Disaster Risk Mitigation and Green Projects by NSA and MA (UNDP)</li> <li>• Question-and-answer session on NSA and MA's Presentation</li> <li>• Closing Remarks on NSA and MA's Presentation by AS</li> <li>❖ <u>Workshop Session</u></li> <li>• Opening Statement by AS</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Project - Policy Advocacy in three countries by TK (SDC)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Capacity Development in three countries by MHS (UNEP)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Pilot Demonstrations in three countries by GP (FOCUS)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Knowledge Products in three countries by NS (NEPA)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Partnerships and Learning Exchanges in three countries by MF (MSRI, UCA)</li> <li>• Comments and Suggestions on MF's Presentation</li> </ul>	23



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for Bamyán province of Afghanistan by MHS (UNEP)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for GBAO area of Tajikistan by GP (FOCUS)</li> <li>• Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for Naryn province of Kyrgyzstan by TK (SDC)</li> <li>• Closing Remarks of the workshop and study tour, by AS</li> </ul>	
--	--	--



# Map of Kyrgyzstan



Base 803157AI (G00230) 12-05

# Study Tour Banner

## ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STUDY TOUR

### Central Asian Exchange for Ecosystems and Disaster Linkages

**Objective:** To promote improved ecosystem management for sustainable and disaster resilient development.

### Eco-DRR Project Components

Policy  
Advocacy

Capacity  
Development

Pilot  
Demonstrations

Knowledge  
Products

Partnerships  
and Learning  
Exchanges

- Absence of well-documented case studies that demonstrate the ecosystem-DRR linkages and tangible benefits for people

**Needs/Challenges 1:** Absence of well-documented case studies

- Absence of cost-benefit analyses of investing in Eco-DRR as an alternative or supplement to conventional DRR approaches

**Needs/Challenges 2:** Absence of cost-benefit analyses

- Lack of local technical capacity to design Eco-DRR projects and implement them in the field
- Lack of awareness among international donors and national decision-makers regarding the potential role of ecosystems in DRR

**Needs/Challenges 3:** Lack of local technical capacity and awareness among decision makers

**Needs/Challenges 4:** Limited cross-sectoral mechanisms to address the challenges of disaster risk in an integrated manner, and hence limited efforts in bringing together environmental, disaster management and adaptive experts to develop most cost-efficient, effective solutions.

**Participating countries:**

**Eco-DRR Project Interventions**

Country	Hazard	Ecosystem	Eco-DRR intervention
Afghanistan	Severe winter/floods	Mountains	Increasing community livelihood resilience
DR Congo	Erosion/flooding	Savanna, gallery forests/micro-catchments	Integrated watershed management
Haiti	Erosion/flooding/hilling	Coastal zone	Integrated coastal zone management
Sudan	Drought	Drylands	Integrated water resources management





## Executive Summary

This report describes the proceedings of the Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction Study Tour in Kyrgyzstan on 10-14 November 2014 which brought together participants from three countries – Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan to facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing, as well as to create a strong Eco-DRR network in the region.

The participants had very strong desire to share their experiences, learn from diversity of ideas, work together as a group and build Eco-DRR networks in the region. The participants were from different organizations working on Eco-DRR, including University of Central Asia’s Mountain Societies Research Institute (UCA-MSRI), National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan (NEPA), Afghanistan Meteorological Department (AMD), Kabul University of Afghanistan (KU), State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan (SAEPF), Focus Humanitarian Assistance of Tajikistan (FOCUS), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit in Kyrgyzstan (GIZ), United Nations Development Programme – Disaster Risk Management Programme in Kyrgyzstan (UNDP-DRMP, KGZ), United Nations Development Programme - Disaster Risk Management Programme of Tajikistan (UNDP-DRMP, TJK), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan (SDC), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development in Kyrgyzstan (ACTED), Mountain Societies Development Support Program in Kyrgyzstan (MSDSP), Committee of Emergency Situations in Tajikistan (COES), and Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre (KHC).



## Background to the Study Tour

Using an Ecosystem Based approach to Disaster Risk Reduction is a new concept in the Central Asian countries of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Further study, networking and advocacy is needed for countries to adopt and benefit from ecosystem-based approaches in disaster risk management. In light of this, the Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Network and Committee for Protection of the Environment (AFKN-CAPE) organised a study tour to Kyrgyzstan, for a programme looking at eco-systems, governance affairs and environmental problems and their solutions.

The project was implemented by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit under the auspices of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014 with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The study tour brought together practitioners from three different but similar countries from environmental aspects – with the aim to exchange experiences, strengthen networks, and learn from each other. Representatives of key national partners and academic authorities from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan took part in the study tour. The team was guided and facilitated additionally by UNEP/OCHA facilitators, trainers and technical experts in Bishkek, and local guides.

### **What were the activities involved in the study tour?**

The tour took place in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country with high-mountainous ecosystems (more than 40 % of its territory is located 3000 m above sea level). Its territory is very sensitive to natural and anthropogenic influence. The mission visited sites showing

- land management;
- engineering; and
- ecology and management of disasters using an ecosystem approach.

Exchange was facilitated and networks were built with university, government and NGOs active in the area, as well as with community groups. Learning from ecosystems approach underpinned the study tour.

### **What were the objectives of the study tour?**

The study tour provided an excellent opportunity to:

- exchange knowledge;
- improve understanding of; and
- acquire lessons-learned about eco-DRR approaches and the existing network in the region.

The choice of Kyrgyzstan was additionally interesting because of its national conservation projects, including national parks and incredible conservation areas. The Naryn area and the Issyk Kul area in particular were interesting sites for linking ecosystems and ecological activities in public works, as well as regional development schemes and rural development.



## Expected Output of the Study Tour

1. Improving understanding of Eco-DRR approaches in three countries
2. DRR and Eco-DRR linkages in three countries
3. Building strong regional Eco-DRR networks with universities, government, NGOs, and community groups
4. Acquiring lessons learned about Eco-DRR approaches
5. Preparation of Eco-DRR Work-plan for three countries
6. Exchanging experiences and best practices on Eco-DRR



## Study Tour Structure and Organization

### Day 1. (10 Nov 2014)

HW welcomed the participants to the University of Central Asia. ZB introduced different activities which will be implemented during the study tour, and answered the questions of the participants regarding the study tour agenda. AAM hosted the Day 1 of the study tour in University of Central Asia in Bishkek. He welcomed the participants to the Eco-DRR Study Tour, introduced the programme, baseline assessment, creation of strategic action plan, and logistics. NSV from MSDSP presented on *Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment of Naryn Town – Remote Hazards Assessment*. Day 1 ended with a Question-and-answer session.

### Day 2. (11 Nov 2014)

RY presented on *MSDSP Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn*, and the participants learned many ways of Climate Change adaptation through ecological approaches by sharing their experiences and learning new lessons through question-and-answer sessions.

### Day 3. (12 Nov 2014)

Through a group work the participants prepared an Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction work-plan for Naryn province in Kyrgyzstan, GBAO area in Tajikistan, and Bamyan province in Afghanistan. After the group work the participants visited the MSDSP tree nurseries in Naryn which were established for the Sopuev Erkinbek Kindergarten. SK explained the *Role of Nurseries and Trees as an Ecological Approach of Reducing Disaster Risks* to the participants. The study tour participants walked to the top of a hill to see the aerial view of Naryn area and learn from the area's land management, engineering, ecology and management of disasters using an ecosystem approach.

### Day 4. (13 Nov 2014)

The participants visited the Issyk Kul area of Kyrgyzstan, and AS, ZB, TK explained the *Role of Ecosystems in Issyk Kul Area of Kyrgyzstan*, and the participants learned lessons from the ecological management of Issyk Kul area. The participants also visited the Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre (KHC) and the authorities of KHC – KM, ZA, NT, SA, IA, LA, CT talked on *Activities of Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre*. MNM, the Weather Forecasting Manager of Afghanistan Meteorological Department (AMD) in Afghanistan exchanged his own office's activities with the authorities from KHC and learnt from each other's exchanged ideas.

### Day 5. (14 Nov 2014)

The participants attended the presentation and workshop on Eco-DRR in University of Central Asia's conference room. AS started the session by welcoming the participants, he then talked on Eco-DRR approaches and explained the details about the presentation and workshop.

AAM presented *UNEP's Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan* from Afghanistan delegation's side. The participants curiously listened to the presentation and enriched themselves from each other's questions and answers.

EK presented the FOCUS's *DRR Project in Tajikistan* from Tajikistan delegation's side, and after a Question-and-answer session the participants learned the use of DRR and significance of Eco-DRR in reducing disaster risks sustainably.

TK presented the *SECO Infrastructure Financing Program in the Kyrgyz Republic* and shared the details and importance of infrastructure financing program, emphasizing on engineering and infrastructure approaches; where through closing remarks the participants suggested Eco-DRR approaches to be mainstreamed in the financing program of SECO for achieving sustainable development.

EO presented the *DRR/DRM projects of GIZ* with a more focus on Kyrgyzstan where many Eco-DRR projects were also explained as part of their DRR projects for the participants; the presentation ended with a Question-and-answer session where EO shared the significance of DRR/DRM approaches and also pointing out towards Eco-DRR from sustainable development perspective in comparison to DRR/DRM approaches.

IS explained the *Role of Kyrgyzstan's State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry(SAEPP)* and focused on explaining the Climate Change project of the Agency, he explained the short, medium, and long-term projects of the Agency to the participants and faced many questions focusing on Eco-DRR approaches for environmental protection.

NSA and MA presented UNDP's *Disaster Risk Mitigation and Green Projects* to the participants and the participants received a detailed information about UNDP's disaster risk mitigation and green projects through a beneficial Question-and-answer session.

After the presentation session, the workshop session started where the participants were divided into five groups and each group focused on one, but different five components of Eco-DRR project. The groups worked on using the five components of Eco-DRR project – *Policy Advocacy, Capacity Development, Pilot Demonstrations, Knowledge Products, Partnerships and Learning Exchanges* - in their respective countries. The groups worked on four points:

1. *Current Situation*
2. *Proposed Actions*
3. *Long-term Impacts*
4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*

After the ideas were collected on flip-charts by the 5 working groups by the group secretary, each group presented their ideas on using the five components of Eco-DRR Project in their countries through their spokesmen. Each group faced different questions respective to their selected component of Eco-DRR Project.

After the five groups shared their ideas on five components of Eco-DRR Project, they visited the stall of three countries in the conference room where the Eco-DRR, DRR, and environmental reports, brochures, fact-sheets, and printed materials of the three countries were exhibited. The participants collected knowledge products from the stall for better understanding of different Eco-DRR, DRR, and environmental projects of the different countries.



After the stall exhibition, the participants filled the evaluation form of the Study Tour, and then received their Study Tour Participation Certificates. Finally AS and MF wrapped up the session and the last day of study tour ended with a group photo in the conference room.



## Study Tour Participants:

### Participants of the Study Tour (10-14 Nov 2014)

No	Country	Names and Shortcut for names	Position	Contacts
1	Afghanistan	Andrew Scanlon (AS)	Country Programme Manager, UNEP	andrew.scanlon@unep.org +93 (0) 796630412
2	Afghanistan	Abdul Aziz Mohibbi (AAM)	Assistant Professor, KU	aziz.mohibbi@yahoo.com +93 (0) 779492542
3	Afghanistan	Mohammad Haris Sherzad (MHS)	National Climate Change Specialist, UNEP	Haris.sherzad@unep.org +93 (0) 790 697 320
4	Afghanistan	Najeebullah Azad (NA)	Research Assistant, UNEP	najeebullah.azad@yahoo.com +93 (0) 780162573
5	Afghanistan	Naqibullah Sediqi (NS)	Head of GHG, NEPA	naqib_sediqi@yahoo.com +93(0) 77 47 95 408/ 0785 29 65 20
6	Afghanistan	Mohd Nasim Muradi (MNM)	Weather Forecasting Manager, AMD	nasim.muradi786@gmail.com +93 (0)765889078
7	Tajikistan	Eraj Kaniev (EK)	Regional Coordinator, FOCUS	eraj.kaniev@focushumanitarian.org
8	Tajikistan	Golib Pisarejev (GP)	GIS Manager, FOCUS	gholib.pisarejev@focushumanitarian.org  + 992 935882000
9	Tajikistan	Khurshedmo Aknazarova (KA)	Programme Assistant, UNDP, DRMP	khursheda.akanazarova@undp.org
10	Tajikistan	Abdelnosir Bektashev (AB)	Senior Officer, COES	b.nasir@mailro
11	Kyrgyzstan	Zhyldyz Beishenalieva (ZB)	Facilitator, UNEP/UCA	j_beishenalieva@yahoo.com+996554002826
12	Kyrgyzstan	Tunzhurbek Kudabaev (TK)	National Programme Officer for Basic Infrastructure, Swiss Embassy in Kyrgyzstan	tunzhurbek.kudabaev@eda.admin.ch Phone + 996 312 301036
13	Kyrgyzstan	Sara Bachmann (SB)	Intern, SDC HQ	Sara.bachmann@eda.admin.ch
14	Kyrgyzstan	Peter Naderer (PN)	Regional Project Development Officer, ACTED Central Asia	peter.naderer@acted.org  +996770701036

### Additional Participants of the Study Tour from Kyrgyzstan for the Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014

No	Country	Names and Shortcut for names	Position	Contacts
1	Kyrgyzstan	Ilyas Sarybaev (IS)	Chief Specialist, Department of State Environmental Expertise, AoEPF	sarybaevcz@yahoo.com 00996 555090291
2	Kyrgyzstan	Marc Foggin (MF)	Colleague, MSRI, UCA	marc.foggin@gmail.com +996770822456
3	Kyrgyzstan	Mokhira Suyarkulova (MS)	Project Manager, MSRI, UCA	mokhira.suyarkulova@ucentralasia.org  +996 778932386
4	Kyrgyzstan	Mamadaliyeva Zuura (MZ)	Natural Sciences Research Fellow, MSRI, UCA	zuura.mamadaliyeva@ucentralasia.org  +996707260907
5	Kyrgyzstan	Nazgul Sharshenova (NSA)	Coordination Specialist, UNDP, DRMP	nazgul.sharshenova@undp.org +996312 314-314 (ext.104)

6	Kyrgyzstan	Kasymova Makhbube (KM)	Head of WFD, KHC	Mahbuba.meteo@rambler.ru 00996 777900412
7	Kyrgyzstan	Marat Abdrahmanov (MA)	Programme Specialist, UNDP, DRMP	marat.abdrahmanov@undp.org +996312 314 314, 314 268 (ext. 103)
8	Kyrgyzstan	Horst Weyerhaeuser (HW)	Director of MSRI, UCA	-
9	Kyrgyzstan	Elvira Osmonalieva (EO)	Project Officer  Strengthening of Livelihoods through Climate Change Adaptation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, GIZ	Elvira.osmonalieva@giz.de + 996 770442838

### Presenters of the Study Tour from Kyrgyzstan in Field Visits

No	Country	Names and Shortcut for names	Position	Contacts
1	Kyrgyzstan	Rahat Yusubalieva (RY)	MSDSP Project Manager, AKDN	rahat.yusubalieva@akdn.org 00996 550647422
2	Kyrgyzstan	Nurlan Sharshenkulov (NSV)	MSDSP, AKDN	Nurlan.sharshenkulov@akdn.org +996772061400
3	Kyrgyzstan	Saadatbek (SK)	MSDSP, AKDN	-
4	Kyrgyzstan	Ludmila (LA)	Head of Monitoring of Environmental Pollutions Department, KHC	-
5	Kyrgyzstan	Chernika Tachiana (CT)	Head of Hydro- Meteorological Department, KHC	-
6	Kyrgyzstan	Zoya (ZA)	Head of Meteorology Department, KHC	-
7	Kyrgyzstan	Nathalia (NT)	Head of Telecommunication, KHC	-
8	Kyrgyzstan	Sabira (SA)	Chief of International Department, KHC	-
9	Kyrgyzstan	Ignia (IA)	Technical Manager for Modernization of Meteorology Project, KHC	-



## Presentation Topics

Nurlan Sharshenkulov (MSDSP-AKDN), *Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment of Naryn Town – Remote Hazards Assessment*

Rahat Yusubalieva (MSDSP-AKDN), *MSDSP Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn*

Saadatbek (MSDSP-AKDN), *Role of Nurseries and Trees as an Ecological Approach of Reducing Disaster Risks*

Andrew Scanlon (UNEP), Zhyldyz Beishenalieva (UNEP/UCA), Tunzhurberk Kudabaev (SDC), *Role of Ecosystems in Issyk Kul Area of Kyrgyzstan*

Officials from KHC - Kasymova Makhbube, Zoya, Nathalia, Sabira, Ignia, Ludmila, Chernika Tachiana, *Activities of Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre*

Abdul Aziz Mohibbi (KU), *UNEP's Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan*

Eraj Kaniev (FOCUS), *FOCUS's DRR Project in Tajikistan*

Tunzhurberk Kudabaev (SDC), *SECO Infrastructure Financing Program in the Kyrgyz Republic*

Elvira Osmonalieva (GIZ), *DRR/DRM projects of GIZ*

Ilyas Sarybaev (MoEP), *Role of Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Environmental Protection*

Marat Abdrahmanov and Nazgul Sharshenova (UNDP), *UNDP's Disaster Risk Mitigation and Green Projects*

Tunzhurberk Kudabaev (SDC), *Eco-DRR Project - Policy Advocacy in three countries*

Mohammad Haris Sherzad (UNEP), *Eco-DRR Project-Capacity Development in three countries*

Golib Pisarejev (FOCUS), *Eco-DRR Project - Pilot Demonstrations in three countries*

Naqibullah Sediqi (NEPA), *Eco-DRR Project - Knowledge Products in three countries*

Marc Foggin (UCA-MSRI), *Eco-DRR Project - Partnerships and Learning Exchanges*

Mohammad Haris Sherzad (UNEP), *Eco-DRR Work-plan for Bamyan province of Afghanistan*

Tunzhurberk Kudabaev (SDC), *Eco-DRR Work-plan for Naryn province of Kyrgyzstan*

Golib Pisarejev (FOCUS), *Eco-DRR Work-plan for GBAO area of Tajikistan*

## Day 1 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (10 Nov 2014)

Meeting Duration: 13:00 – 17:30 hours

- **Opening Statement**

**Welcoming Speech by HW, Director of MSRI, UCA**

Ladies and gentleman, welcome to UCA. We are so happy to have environmentalists here today. UCA works widely on environmental aspects like Eco-DRR, DRR, and Climate Change. Without further ado I would like to ask ZB to start the day by introducing the study tour to all participants.

**Introduction to the Study Tour by ZB, UNEP/UCA Facilitator**

Dear participants of the study tour, welcome to Kyrgyzstan. The file on your desks includes the introduction, agenda, bios of participants, logistical arrangement, and arrival summary. As you can see in the agenda, during the first day we will have an introductory program and then NS will present *Naryn River Flood Modelling*, and then there will be a Question-and-answer session. During the second day we will travel towards Naryn and RY will present on *MSDSP Climate Change Adaptation Project*. During the third day through a group work we will prepare a work-plan for Eco-DRR in Naryn area of Kyrgyzstan, GBAO area of Tajikistan, Bamyan province of Afghanistan. After the preparation of the work-plan we will visit tree nurseries of MSDSP in Naryn area and will have an aerial view of Naryn area to see the land management, engineering, ecology and management of disasters using the ecosystems approach. During the fourth day we will be in Issyk Kul area of Kyrgyzstan to see the role of ecosystems in the area and learn lessons from ecological management in the area. After visiting the Issyk Kul area, we will travel back to Bishkek and visit the Kyrgyz Hydrometeorology Centre. During the fifth day we will be in University of Central Asia conference room to attend the presentations from Afghanistan's Eco-DRR Project team, Tajikistan's FOCUS team, Kyrgyzstan's SDC team, Kyrgyzstan's GIZ team, Kyrgyzstan MoEP team, and Kyrgyzstan's UNDP team; and after the presentations are over, we will have a workshop on implementing the five components of Eco-DRR in the three participating countries. A stall exhibition is organized after the workshop where participants will share their printed materials – brochure, reports, and fact-sheets – with each other. After the stall exhibition there will be participation certificate distribution, wrap up of the study tour, and a group photo.

**Hosting the Study Tour by AAM, Assistant Professor at Kabul University**

Thanks to UCA for providing the space for the study tour's meetings and workshops. Disasters occur annually and costs both lives and economic problems for countries. It is difficult to avoid and control all disasters around the globe but there is way to reduce/mitigate them or adapt with them. Our gathering today can be helpful to share the knowledge of how to reduce the disaster risks through ecosystem-based approaches. Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan – countries with similar disasters and environmental aspects, can cooperate for reducing disaster risks through sharing ideas and building networks during the study tour.

Eco-DRR is a new concept and approach of reducing disaster risks that currently its pilot demonstrations are implemented in four countries – Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Though Eco-DRR is a new approach but it is an important, cost-effective, sustainable, and reliable approach of reducing disaster risks in comparison to the engineering approaches of disaster risk reduction, therefore Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit under the auspices of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014 with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has organized the Eco-DRR Study Tour in Kyrgyzstan from 10-14 Nov 2014 for the participants to exchange ideas on Eco-DRR and learn from each other. I thank the supporting partners for facilitating the study tour for the participants of three countries. The three participating countries represent mountainous countries that faces similar disasters – floods, earthquakes, landslides which can be reduced through cooperation and sharing knowledge. The main focus of the study tour for the participants is to learn lessons and implement the lessons to their own country for reducing disaster risks through ecosystem-approaches.

During the study tour we must prepare curriculum for implementing ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches in the three countries through SWOT Analysis to understand the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in the process of implementing such Eco-DRR projects, and also work on implementation of 5 components of Eco-DRR in the three countries. We should take initiative and cooperate for future purposes.

- **Comments and Suggestions on the session**

**C&S1 by MHS:** I believe that engineering approaches of reducing disaster risks are not sustainable and effective for communities. As an example if dams are built for poor villages and due to a disaster the dam gets washed away then the poor community will not be able to rebuild the dam but if Eco-DRR approaches are applied for reducing disaster risks, it will work on planting trees on areas prone to disasters, and if the disaster washes away the trees then the poor community can be able to plant a new tree instead. So Eco-DRR is more community-based, sustainable, and cost-effective.

Also the main problem in different countries regarding water issues is that rivers and water are treated politically, not scientifically. So the approach of treating water should be changed into scientific approach rather than political approach for better utilization of water in different countries.

**C&S2 by EK:** With regards to MHS's statement on management of water in countries I want to say that water matters cause neighbourhood problems between countries, as Tajikistan is constructing two biggest hydro-power dams, it seems that the neighbours are showing their opposition to building the dams.

**C&S3 by AAM:** Due to the young age of Eco-DRR in the world as an approach for reducing disaster risks through ecosystem-approaches, Government of Switzerland spends 1 billion dollar on engineering approaches of reducing disaster risks, thinking about 100 years of the Rhine River so that in future decades and centuries natural disasters such as floods could not affect the communities. I believe through Eco-DRR approach that investment would have given more

outcome comparing to the engineering solutions, as Eco-DRR approaches are sustainable, community-based, and cost-effective.

- **Presentation on Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment of Naryn Town – Remote Hazards Assessment** by NSV (MSDSP-AKDN)

The project – hazard vulnerability risk assessment of Naryn town - is implemented by FOCUS and MSDSP in Kyrgyzstan through the donor – Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Foundation for Environment (PSAKFE). The project period is from May 2014 to December 2014, the target area is Naryn town and the technical consultants are from Moscow State University.

The assessment components are:

1. Geological assessment of local hazards
2. Remote hazards assessment
3. Assessment of existing mitigation structures and design of new mitigation projects
4. Creating a GIS database of hazards

The data sources for the assessment is:

1. Topographic maps
2. Satellite images
3. Aerial assessment
4. Field assessment

The project has identified different areas prone to hazards by highlighting the hazard prone areas.

- **Question-and-answer session** on NSV's Presentation

**Q1 by MHS:** How did you differentiate the yellow and red zones in the potential flood zone map?

**A1 by NSV:** We differentiated the yellow and red zones by their altitude data.

**Q2 by NS:** It seems you have only assessed the flooding risks of the area, what about the other hazards as landslide, earthquake, land degradation, etc.?

**A1 by NSV:** AKDN has different projects on assessing different hazards in the area. Our project is only concerned with the flood risks of the area.

- **Comments and Suggestions** on NSV's presentation

**C&S1 by EK:** As the study tour is on Eco-DRR approaches, we should focus on implementing ecosystem-based approaches for reducing disaster risks, not engineering approaches. There are some benefits that can be gained by engineering approaches which is the possibility of urgent action for reducing disaster risks in comparison to the time needed for implementing ecosystem-based approaches.

**C&S2 by TK:** I suggest that at the end of the project, a final report should be prepared and more focus should be on preparing statistical data of the project.

- **Closing Remarks of the session** by AAM:

Dear friends, thanks for coming to the session and exchanging your ideas on Eco-DRR approaches in reducing disaster risks. Tomorrow we will visit Naryn area and attend the presentation of Rahat Yusubalieva (MSDSP-AKDN) on MSDSP's Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn.

## **Day 2 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (11 Nov 2014)**

**Meeting duration:** 13:30-18:30 hours

- **Opening Statement** by AS

Ladies and gentlemen welcome to Naryn, and thanks from RY for supporting our cause and being ready to share her experiences of Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn which includes different aspects of Eco-DRR approaches within their CCA projects.

- **Presentation on MSDSP Climate Change Adaptation Project in Naryn** by RY (MSDSP-AKDN)

MSDSP initiative of AKDN implements CCA programs in Naryn area of Kyrgyzstan. The project started in 2010 due to the need of the people asking about weather trends and changes of weather in Naryn area. The people in Naryn area proposed a project focusing on CCA so that climate change could be adapted and proper information on weather changes could be provided for them.

Water, land and pastures affect livelihood of people. People themselves are the most important contributors to the project as they have the years of experience regarding weather trends. The project founding after analysing the Meteorological data of Naryn area from 1924 till now showed that the raining and wind trends have changed, which led us to understanding the importance of local people who had said the same before we started analysing the meteorological data. So there is an agreement between the result of our studies and the local people's experience.

In Naryn according to our data there has been increased wind trends and weather variability these years. If snow falls in June during a year, then in coming year it may fall in September, and the case is also similar to the flooding cases too. The weather changes causes loss of livestock, lives, harvest, etc. So better weather forecasting plus many meteorological stations are needed in Naryn area.

Weather trends change repeatedly, where strong winds dry the land, and heavy rain causes erosion and agricultural loss. Our project methodology is:

1. Village Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
2. Identifying Climate Change trends through participatory village meeting, interviews, village mapping, hazard mapping, etc.)
3. Learning from experiences of local people.
4. Information sharing sessions for awareness raising and capacity building through trainings, seminars, and workshops.

Each methodology has their adaptation plans, and we hold meetings with 15 NGOs in Kyrgyzstan working on CC. The government of Kyrgyzstan has prioritized CCA.

In practical terms, our project forms Climate Change working group in villages that includes Engineers, and local experts. These working groups identify vulnerable areas and prioritize areas for implementing adaptation plan, both strategic and short term plans. These CCA working groups tackle poverty and builds resilience that organize meetings for different issues as water, energy, and pasture.

This year we supported 11 projects in 20 villages including aspects such as:

- ✓ Pasture gradation;
- ✓ Repair of the road;
- ✓ Establishing tree nurseries, mainly near Kindergartens to reduce soil erosion, land slide, and weather pollution
- ✓ Training the communities to graze and use remote pastures so that pressure on nearby pastures could be removed.
- ✓ Prioritizing water management issues in Naryn through better water management in upstream villages to support downstream villages.
- ✓ Bringing water to the pasture through proper water management
- ✓ Distributing drought resistance seeds to the communities to cultivate instead of normal seeds which does not suit the unstable environment.
- ✓ Training farmers how to manage farming in dry areas through using drought resistance seeds
- ✓ Establishing libraries where books, videos, and audios are provided for local people to get information about environment.
- ✓ Establishing farmer schools where farmers cultivate different seeds in different areas and share the experiences with each other for better efficiency regarding when, where, how, and which seeds to be planted.
- ✓ Information sharing sessions for capacity building and awareness raising in different areas of Naryn

The government of Kyrgyzstan does not have a CCA plan but we do have CCA plans in these project sites. CCA is very important in this part of the world where the Naryn River used to freeze during the winter in previous years but not now, which shows true picture of climate change in the area.

- **Question-and-answer session** on RY's Presentation

**Q1 by AAM:** How are the saplings of nurseries distributed by your project?

**A1 by RY:** The saplings of nurseries are distributed through the collaboration of people. The interesting things that we do for motivating the children to plant trees is that we plant trees in Kindergartens on behalf of school children in order to raise awareness about the importance of trees in CCA.

**Q2 by EK:** Do you have VDMPs and VDPs?

**A2 by RY:** Our project is having these VDMPs and VDPs but the government does not have these plans.

**Q3 by AAM:** What are the practical actions of the project in rangeland to reseed pastures?

**A3 by RY:** First we provide remote pastures for the people so that the pressure of grazing from nearby pastures are reduced, and then we reseed the nearby pastures.

**Q4 by AS:** Do you use native species of trees in your nurseries or foreign species? I believe using native species, experienced well in the area, is better than planting foreign species that cannot adapt to Naryn climate.

**A4 by RY:** Our project uses both native and foreign species for planting in Naryn area.

**Q5 by MHS:** Does your project create new pastures?

**A5 by RY:** Our project works on reseeding the current pastures and guiding the communities to focus on using the remote pastures.

**Q6 by AB:** Are there monitoring of risks and remote hazards?

**A6 by RY:** Yes, Ministry of Environment Situation monitors the risks and reports to the provincial offices.

**Q7 by NS:** Why your project is focused in Naryn area?

**A7 by RY:** Our project is a pilot project focused in Naryn area due to people's need and proposals. Surely we will implement such projects, if the outcome of pilot projects are thought satisfactory and useful. We will also suggest the government through our experiences to implement such projects too.

**Q8 by MHS:** Does your project have a database of information?

**A8 by RY:** Our project does not have a database but WOCAT Organization in Kyrgyzstan collects best practices on environment in Kyrgyzstan and we can use their database.

- **Comments and Suggestions** on RY's presentation

**C&S1 by AS:** Different projects including Eco-DRR, DRR, and CCA are the “same donkey but with different panels” so we must cooperate in building environmental resilient communities through these projects together.

**C&S2 by AS:** The problem with engineering approach to disaster risk reduction is the maladaptation of these approaches, as an example building a dam or canal for reducing flood risk, can be washed away after a severe flood which is a waste of finance; but the ecosystem-based approaches does not face maladaptation as ecosystems are going to be effective in reducing disaster risks in different ways. Also Eco-DRR decreases poverty, improves weather, and improves livelihood. So Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan need to focus on using Eco-DRR rather than DRR, as Eco-DRR is more sustainable and cost-effective.

**C&S3 by AS:** Eco-DRR projects cannot be implemented in 2 years, as Switzerland has started Eco-DRR approaches from 1920, and the results are coming out now, so before starting Eco-DRR projects one should think of continuity of the project for better achievement of long-term goals.

**C&S4 by AS:** In Eco-DRR projects “don’t start at the bottom, but start from the top” because if you start from the bottom, the risks and disasters of upper areas will wash away the gains at the bottom area.

**C&S5 by TK:** I support AS’s statement: “don’t start at the bottom, but start from the top” by saying a Kyrgyz proverb: “Eldin bashy bolboi suunun bashy bol” which means “don’t be the head of people, but be the head of water”

- **Closing Remarks of the session** by AS

Thanks a lot to RY for her presentation on MSDSP’s Climate Change Adaptation Projects and linking DRR with Eco-DRR. Today’s session ends here and we will have a group-work tomorrow to prepare Eco-DRR work-plan for Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

## **Day 3 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (12 Nov 2014)**

**Meeting duration:** 09:30-18:30 hours (12:00-13:00 lunch break)

- **Opening Statement** by AS

The problem of disaster management in different countries, including Afghanistan is that the government does not think of pre-disaster activities which can reduce disaster risks but they only act after the disaster happens. And many times, the actions after disaster occurrence are more focused on engineering approaches rather than ecosystem based approaches.

In 1995 the Global Disaster Management Authority did not have any global strategy on disaster risk reduction. During the preparation of MDG (Millennium Development Goals) the disaster management authorities came together for preparing a framework on disaster risk reduction, and finally made the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. Different agencies had different jobs to play for implementing the



HFA, and the role of some green agencies was implementing Eco-DRR to reduce disaster risks. But the banks (World Bank, ADB, etc.) were supposed to invest more in infrastructure, and UNEP focused on Eco-DRR. Of course the members of the banks. UNEP Afghanistan had discussions with the European Commission, the biggest donor of Eco-DRR. In preparation for 2015 EC wanted to test what Eco-DRR practically means in different areas of the world which led them to selecting 4 countries for pilot demonstrations of Eco-DRR Project – Sudan, Afghanistan, DRC, and Haiti.

The Eco-DRR project in Afghanistan is implemented through partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations. The planned interventions for project implementation is:

1. Establishing community tree nurseries
2. Reforestation and rehabilitation of slopes prone to avalanche and floods
3. Trainings on community-based nursery management
4. Community-based early warning and disaster preparedness trainings
5. Village-level green and resilient development planning in seven villages
6. Cluster village development planning in three village clusters, based on the seven village development plans
7. Cluster village development plans integrated into the Koh-e Baba Mountain Area District Plan, encompassing the Koh-e Baba watershed
8. National training on Eco-DRR for sustainable development
9. National and community-level awareness raising on Eco-DRR

The Eco-DRR project targets achieved is:

1. Six community nurseries established for seven villages, with each nursery producing 200,000 saplings of indigenous and hazard-resilient tree species, namely apple, apricot, almond, walnut, pear, peach and poplar that also provide additional income to households.
2. 163,000 tree cuttings planted in selected avalanche and flood prone areas across the seven villages
3. Building designs for winter resilient, community centers developed, that will benefit 1,200 households in 12 communities by providing safe shelters and a place for environmental education and livelihood trainings
4. Seven trainings on early warning and disaster preparedness conducted in the seven villages
5. Nine trainings delivered on community-based nursery management, involving women and vulnerable households as primary beneficiaries.
6. Seven village development plans and three cluster village development plans prepared
7. Eco-DRR approaches mainstreamed in provincial development plans in Bamyan

The three most important concept in planning Eco-DRR is location, LOCATION, and LOCATION! The main ecosystems in focus are mountains, forests and rangelands in project site in Afghanistan. The main hazards targeted are harsh winter, avalanche, and floods. The location

of Eco-DRR project is the Koh-e Baba Mountain range, Bamyan province (7 villages in 3 village clusters-Khushkak, Foladi, and Dukoni)

The Eco-DRR project in Afghanistan is wearing the hat of poverty by working with MRRD; wearing the hat of DRR by working with ANDMA, Save the Children, ACTED, FOCUS, and UNDP; wearing the hat of CC working with NEPA; and wearing the hat of green energy working with MEW in Afghanistan, and our objective is to cooperate with all respective organizations.

For me a disaster is not only the physical disasters but harsh winter/cold itself during the winter is a disaster. So winter resilient community centres are a good idea for reducing disaster risks.

Regarding the Eco-DRR projects, people only think that planting trees is the only ecosystem approach for reducing disaster risks, but tree planting is one of many activities of Eco-DRR projects. Many projects use seeds of different species instead of saplings of trees, they must start using saplings of trees instead of using seeds which will take 2 years of time so that the seed should be transformed to saplings. It is through saplings rather than seeds that early outcomes can be achieved.

I suggest that pro-poor models should be prepared within Eco-DRR projects to address poor people in villages because rich people already have the ability to tackle disasters or get out of the disasters easily, but poor people suffer the most. Empowering women in rural villages is the best idea for Eco-DRR as they are responsible for clean stoves, clean house, community nurseries, ecosystems around the house, etc., so poor communities and women should be focused in every Eco-DRR project for better efficiency.

Now we will be distributed into three working groups to prepare Eco-DRR work-plan for the three countries:

- AAM, MHS, MNM, and NS will work on preparation of Eco-DRR work-plan for Bamyan province of Afghanistan
- EK, GP, KA, and AB will work on preparation of Eco-DRR work-plan for GBAO area of Tajikistan
- TK, and SB work on preparation of Eco-DRR work-plan for Naryn area of Kyrgyzstan

Please prepare the work-plan for your countries based on the Eco-DRR Project Fact-sheet of Afghanistan by working on partnerships, planned interventions, types of disasters, solutions, and challenges.

- **Work-group on Preparation of Eco-DRR Work-plan for three countries**

The participants drew the maps of Naryn, GBAO, Bamyan on flipcharts to show different ecosystems and wrote the details for implementation of Eco-DRR in these areas. According to the plans, the work-plan for three countries will be presented on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014.

- **Site Visit to the Sopuev Erkinbek Kindergarten**

The participants visited the Sopuev Erkinbek Kindergarten where SK explained the *Role of Nurseries and Trees as an Ecological Approach of Reducing Disaster Risks*. SK explained the role of pine trees nursery which is established by MSDSP for the kindergarten. SK added that winter lasts for 6-7 months in the area where the nurseries are located. According to SK in previous years the area had more snow and less wind, but this year the situation has changed, the area has less snow and more wind, and no raining in summer due to climate change impacts. Pine trees are planted in the nurseries by each kid from the kindergarten so that they see the trees grow as they grow, which will finally have a larger impact for awareness raising among the kids, their families, and communities. The kindergarten will be having a park around it where tree nurseries are also established on the park area.

- **Closing Remarks of the Day** by AS

After the site visit, we will walk to the top of a hill to see the aerial view of Naryn area and learn from the area's land management, engineering, ecology and management of disasters using an ecosystem approach; then we will travel towards Issyk Kul area.

## **Day 4 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (13 Nov 2014)**

**Meeting duration:** 9:30-11:00 hours (Meeting at Issyk Kul)

**Meeting duration:** 4:00-5:30 hours (Meeting at KHC)

### **1. Issyk Kul Area**

- **Opening Statement at Issyk Kul** by AS

Dear participants of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, today we are in Issyk Kul area of Kyrgyzstan in order to study and learn from the role of ecosystem in the area. We will be having a visit to the Issyk Kul Lake to better understand the ecosystem roles in the area.

- **Explanation of Role of Ecosystems in Issyk Kul Area of Kyrgyzstan** by AS, ZB, TK

Issyk Kul is a great example of natural ecosystems, not developed ecosystems by human being. Lakes are the best regulating way of disasters based on Eco-DRR principles. Rather than spending millions on engineering methods, we should focus on regulating function of ecosystems by understanding and utilizing its regulating functions.

Issyk Kul Lake has a length of 182 kilometres (113 miles), and a width of 60 kilometres (37 miles) that covers an area of 6236 square kilometres which makes it the second largest mountain lake in the world behind Lake Titicaca in South America. Issyk Kul Lake is located at an altitude of 1,607 metres (5,272 ft.) that reaches 668 metres in depth.

The lake is situated in the northern Tian Shan Mountains in eastern Kyrgyzstan. The lake is the tenth largest lake in the world by volume and the second largest saline lake after the Caspian Sea.

Though the name “Issyk Kul” means “hot lake” in the Kyrgyz language but the lake never freezes being surrounded by the Tian Shan Mountain’s snow-capped peaks.

More than 80 sources flow into the lake. The lake has water cycles, that in different years the area will have more and less water levels. There is a reserved zone in Issyk Kul area for common population to build houses, the reserved zone is the least vulnerable area regarding hazards from the lake.

- **Closing Remarks at Issyk Kul** by AS

From Issyk Kul area we can understand the value of ecosystems and Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction, which means that we should better understand the character and regulating function of ecosystems to reduce disaster risks through ecosystem management rather than using engineering methods.

## 2. Meeting at Kyrgyzstan Hydro-meteorological Centre

- **Opening Statement at Kyrgyz Hydro-meteorological Centre** by AS

In a country like Afghanistan, CCA is DRR however it should be different. Different government partners in Afghanistan – MAIL, MRRD, AMD, ANDMA, and NEPA are working on CCA and DRR. UNEP’s focus in Afghanistan is on CCA and DRR. For Hyogo Framework for Action and COP20 and COP21 we need to work together. The objective of our trip is to introduce NEPA and AMD to you. I will request from the officials of KHC to introduce themselves:

1. Kasymova Makhbube (KM) – Head of Forecasting Department
2. Zoya (ZA) – Head of Meteorology Department, responsible for collecting and analysing meteorology data, and also providing climate data to different agencies.
3. Nathalia (NA) – Head of Telecommunication, responsible for preliminary data collection from WMO and exchanging data with different agencies
4. Sabira (SA) – Chief of International Department
5. Ignia (IA) – Technical Manager for Modernization of Meteorology Project by WB
6. Ludmila (LA) – Head of Monitoring of Environmental Pollutions Department, responsible for air pollution, surface water pollution, and monitoring hazards in residential areas
7. Chernika Tachiana (CT) – Head of Hydro-Meteorological Department

- **Explanation of Activities of Kyrgyzstan Hydrometeorology Centre** by KM, ZA, NT, SA, IA, LA, CT

Considering CCA and DRR, KHC informs and warns the state agencies on existence of any disaster or risk. We forecast weather and through forecasting, we forecast heavy rain fall and

frost, avalanches, precipitation, winds, floods and everything concerning hydrometeorological risks. All collected information by our office is collected and distributed to the partners and public through different channels. We only deal with forecasting the risks and informing responsible agencies about the risks who are responsible for management of these risks.

In the last 100 years, 0.8° C increase in temperature that in high altitudes the change is significant. Considerable changes and low precipitation is identified in different areas of the country. It is very intense that our country experiences higher precipitation changes in short period of time.

- **Comments and Suggestions on KHC Officials' Explanations:**

**C&S1 by AS:**

Afghanistan is rebuilding, needs Hydro-meteorology centres as Kyrgyzstan; and it is very interesting for us to see your office with the experts working on different departments. It is surprising that KHC is doing everything by themselves though in Afghanistan different agencies including WMO and WFP cooperates with the government in doing the different tasks.

- **Question and answer Session on KHC Officials' Explanations:**

**Q1 by MNM:** What kind of Modelling system do you use in KHC?

**A1 by KHC officials:** We use European modelling system which is an international system. WRF (Weather Research and Forecasting) Model is going to be installed in Kyrgyzstan soon which can be helpful for KHC.

**Q2 by TK:** SDC has constructed 30 water reservoirs in the country, do you exchange data with the responsible persons for these water reservoirs too?

**A2 by KHC officials:** Sure, the responsible persons receive our weather forecasting data and we inform them about risks of different disasters.

**Q3 by EK:** What would you like to change in Hydro-meteorology infrastructure?

**A3 by KHC officials:** We hope and expect the modernization of our system. Our monitoring capacity is very low in high altitude regions that thankfully WB is working with us on improvement of monitoring capacity in high altitude regions.

- **Closing Remarks at Kyrgyz Hydro-meteorological Centre by AS**

We thank a lot the KHC officials for sharing their ideas and experiences with the participants from three countries regarding DRR and CCA. Tomorrow we have a workshop in UCA, and we hope you can attend the workshop on Eco-DRR approaches. In coming years we hope and expect more exchange from different countries regarding data sharing on DRR, CCA, and Eco-DRR.

In Afghanistan there has been huge investment in Hydro-meteorology in recent years. 79 flood stations have been built on five major rivers, big investment has been made on civilian airport. Until this year the controlling of weather forecasting and monitoring was being done by US

Army but now Afghans are responsible for the job and I believe that now things are moving in the right direction with the new powerful government.

## Day 5 of the Eco-DRR Study Tour, Kyrgyzstan (14 Nov 2014)

Meeting duration: 9:30 – 16:00 hours

### ❖ *Presentation Session*

- Opening Statement by AS

Dear friends, welcome to the workshop on Eco-DRR approaches in UCA. There has been many formal and informal consultations of environmental issues. Study tours and discussions are great ways of getting ready for environmental issues, for that reason we have gathered here today for talking on implementation of Eco-DRR approaches in reducing disaster risks. Afghanistan, which includes pilot demonstrations of Eco-DRR projects is part of the LDN (Landlocked Developing Nations), SIDS (Small Island Developing States), and G77 (Group of 77 countries).

My final point is that there are big initiatives on DRR and CCA globally, and my advice in UNEP for the three countries is the integration of DRR and CCA in your countries which will make stronger initiatives for DRR and CCA. With the integration of CCA and DRR in our countries, we must integrate our works regionally and globally so that stronger achievement could be achieved.

I always use the Example of Andes which is the longest continental mountain range in the world, situated along the western coast of South America; this range is about 7000 km long and about 200 km to 700 km wide and has average heights of about 4000 m. The Andes extends from north to south through seven South American countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. Andes countries work together on environmental issues and have gained huge achievements together, so we must also learn from their experiences, work together and gain big achievements together.

Now I will request the participants to introduce themselves.

I will request AAM to present his slides.

- Presentation on UNEP's Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan by AAM (UNEP, KU)

Losses from disasters are a threat to human life and development. Disaster risk is accumulating in most regions and the scale of vulnerability and exposure to hazards, and the resulting demand for assistance and protection are projected to increase substantially over the next decades.

Globally UNEP has been developing the idea of Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction since 2007. The Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan started on May 2013 and will end in 2015, and is part of the UN-EU Global Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction. Through Eco-DRR Project, UNEP along with Government of Afghanistan, is working to promote ecosystem based approaches to disaster risk reduction in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is prone to multiple natural hazards and many of the original ecosystems which provided buffer and community resilience are degraded. Disasters are increasing and leading to ever increasing human tragedy and economic costs in the country.

The aim of Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan is:

1. To strengthen resilience at local levels;
2. To promote and institutionalize ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) as integral to development planning at national and sub-national levels;
3. To develop field-tested Eco-DRR approach which can deliver direct community benefits and has the potential to be scaled up to influence national policy and planning processes; and
4. To document the project implementation and its impacts.

Pilot demonstration initiatives of Eco-DRR has three types of activities:

1. Field-based activities targeting a specific ecosystem, hazard and livelihood in selected communities;
2. Capacity development at local and national levels, targeting government authorities as well as civil society; and
3. Networking aimed at bringing professional DRR, CCA and ecosystem management communities of practice in each site.

Parties in national workshops of Eco-DRR agreed to setup a committee to engage and lobby for national policies for eco-DRR to be sustainable and practical in Afghanistan, so we have Eco-DRR Committee in Afghanistan that has an annual work plan and activity plan. The Eco-DRR Committee agreed to focus efforts to work together with other national DRR, Environment, Climate, and Agriculture Committees.

Regarding various activities of Eco-DRR Project in Afghanistan, we have:

1. Prepared land Use Planning for Koh-e Baba Mountain Area;
2. Prepared participatory mapping and design of village management plan considering disaster hazards and opportunities;
3. Developed disaster-risk sensitive land use plan for the Koh-e Baba watershed based on ground surveys and village profiling;
4. Established six community nurseries for seven villages, each nursery producing 200,000 saplings of indigenous and hazard-resilient tree species;
5. Planted 163,000 tree cuttings in selected avalanche and flood prone areas across the seven villages
6. Developed designs for winter-resilient community centers that benefits 1200 households in 12 communities by providing safe shelters and a place for environmental education and livelihood training;

7. Conducted seven trainings on early warning and disaster preparedness in the seven targeted villages;
8. Delivered nine trainings on community-based nursery management, involving women and vulnerable households as primary beneficiary; and
9. Mainstreamed Eco-DRR approaches in provincial development plans in Bamyan province of Afghanistan.

• **Question-and-answer session on AAM's Presentation**

**Q1 by NS:** Does Eco-DRR project have Eco-DRR Committee in Bamyan province of Afghanistan?

**A1 by AAM:** Yes, Eco-DRR project has Eco-DRR Committee in Bamyan province of Afghanistan, and Mr. Sediqi from NEPA is member of the committee.

**Q2 by MF:** How many villages are the project sites?

**A2 by AAM:** Seven villages in three village clusters are the project site.

• **Closing Remarks on AAM's Presentation**, by AS

Thanks to AAM for sharing the Afghanistan's Eco-DRR Project details with us. Now I will invite EK to present.

• **Presentation on FOCUS's DRR Project in Tajikistan** by EK (FOCUS)

Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) is an international group of agencies established in Europe, North America, South and Central Asia to complement the provision of emergency relief, principally in the developing world. It helps people in need reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid and facilitates their transition to sustainable self-reliant, long-term development. Focus Humanitarian Assistance is an affiliate of the AKDN.

FOCUS implements projects in North America, Europe, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan; having the goal of:

1. Disaster Response;
2. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation;
3. Refugee/IDP Assistance; and
4. Institutional Strengthening.

FOCUS has responded internationally to disasters worldwide in following disasters:

- ✓ 2009: Political crisis in Madagascar;
- ✓ 2008: Post presidential election crisis in Kenya;
- ✓ 2007: Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh;
- ✓ 2006: Lebanon crisis (from Syria) and Cyclone Ogn in India;
- ✓ 2005: Earthquake in South East Asia (Pakistan and India), Hurricane Rita & Katrina (USA), Forest Fires in Portugal;



- ✓ 2004: Cyclone Galifo in Madagascar, Indian Ocean Tsunami in India;
- ✓ 2003: Iraq War (from borders in Jordan), forest fires in Portugal;
- ✓ 2002: Earthquake in Nahrin, Afghanistan;
- ✓ 2001: Earthquake in Gujrat, India; and
- ✓ 2000: Floods in Mozambique.

FOCUS in Tajikistan covers GBAO area, Zarafshan, Khujand, and Dushanbe.

FOCUS, to support bringing better living condition for communities in Tajikistan and also preparing the communities for tackling disasters, constructed bridges on rivers for different communities in Tajikistan. These bridges can be helpful for communities during disasters.

The areas covered by FOCUS in Tajikistan face different disasters as floods, avalanches, mud flows, etc. so our main focus is on disaster response to help the devastated communities continue their living normally after disasters by supporting them logistically, and also many times through engineering methods of reducing disaster risks by putting gabions on the route of a mud flow, or flood prone areas.

FOCUS's main activities involve working on (EWS) Early Warning Systems in Tajikistan. We have built EWSs in different disaster prone areas, previously we were using wired EWSs but due to different connection problems now we use wireless EWSs in Tajikistan. We have provided SIM Cards for different community members and also fixed loud alarms in villages for informing communities about a disaster and warning them to retreat and come to a safe location.

There are 275 lakes which can be dangerous if their level rises, so we measure the rising level of those lakes and if it was a danger to communities beneath the lake, the EWSs will warn the communities about the danger and will provide proper guidelines for them.

FOCUS mainly implements DRR approaches for reducing disaster risks, as Eco-DRR is a new concept and also needs more time to reach the goal of reducing disaster risks, so we use engineering methods because we can reach to our goals faster in comparison to Eco-DRR approaches.

### • Question-and-answer session on EK's Presentation

**Q1 by KM:** What is EWS?

**A1 by EK:** Early Warning System is an important element of disaster risk reduction that prevents loss of life by informing the communities about a disaster risk before the disaster happens. Informing process can be done through alarms, messages, announcements, etc.

**Q2 by AS:** How much does preparation of one EWS cost?

**A2 by EK:** It costs US \$30,000 to prepare one wireless EWS in a community.

**Q3 by NS:** How does the EWSs work?

**A3 by EK:** We have 24 hours operators in controlling headquarters of the EWSs, consisting 150 professionals in different fields – geology, GIS, Engineering, etc. These operators monitor the

weather changes, and monitors lake levels. Whenever these operators think that a hazard can be changed to a disaster then they would use the EWSs to inform the communities about the disaster and will guide them regarding further actions to take place.

**Q4 by AAM:** How do you respond to avalanches practically in the field and also through EWSs?

**A4 by EK:** We use EWSs to inform the communities of avalanche risks, and then we have Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) with 1700 persons from a French company that can respond and help the at-risk communities in emergency situations.

**Q5 by MHS:** Will not Eco-DRR be efficient than Engineering approaches of reducing disaster risks?

**A5 by EK:** In most cases engineering approaches give fast recovery for protecting the disaster prone areas, because ecosystem-based approaches takes years of time to get a result for protecting communities. But obviously Eco-DRR approaches, from sustainability perspective is more sustainable and cost-effective than engineering approaches.

- **Comments and Suggestions on EK's presentation**

**C&S1 by KA:** Concerning EWSs, UNDP in Tajikistan also supports EWSs for Disaster Risk Reduction so we can have better cooperation with FOCUS to implement such projects together.

- **Closing Remarks on EK's Presentation**, by AS

Thanks from Mr. EK for delivering his presentation on FOCUS's DRR activities in Tajikistan and explaining in depth the EWSs to the meetings. Now I will request TK to present SDC projects.

- **Presentation on SECO Infrastructure Financing Program in the Kyrgyz Republic** by TK (SDC)

SECO in Kyrgyzstan implements infrastructure financing programs in different parts of Kyrgyzstan. SECO covers Bishkek, Kant, Karakol, Naryn, At-Bashy, Jalal-Abad, and Ush. In these covered areas, SECO implements different projects in different sectors. Water projects are implemented by SECO in Bishkek, Kant, Karakol, Naryn, Ush, and Jalal-Abad; and it implements Energy Projects in At-Bashy.

The amount invested in these projects:

Bishkek Water Project: CHF 19.1 million

Kunt Water Project: CHF 6.8 million

Karakol Water Project: CHF 13.05 million

Naryn Water Project: CHF 7 million

Jalal-Abad Water Project: CHF 6.9 million

Ush Water Project: CHF 6.9 million

At-Bashy Energy Project: CHF 19.8 million

The main problem in Kyrgyzstan is the quality of basic services including water, energy, sanitation, etc. We have implemented urban water supply systems, built dams, and implemented energy projects in the stated areas through SECO.

We are going to rehabilitate a power plant which has never been done since early 70s, the hydropower plant is going to fall down; through the governments' ask for help, we are rebuilding the power plant.

As Kyrgyzstan is recognized as a country with fragile environmental conditions and is highly prone to disaster risks, we procure CCA analysis and water supply in certain towns by assessing the CCA aspects and implement measures based on these assessments. In Naryn area the main risk is glaciers melting in higher altitudes which can cause flooding and cause danger to the downstream villages, so we have certain measures for ensuring the security of people and our investments in the area.

- **Question-and-answer session on TK's Presentation**

**Q1 by NS:** How do you link CCA with your projects?

**A1 by TK:** When we do the feasibility study of these projects, we procure special consultancy to assess the risks of CCA who brings out certain measures of mitigation and reduction of the hazards.

- **Comments and Suggestions on TK's presentation**

**C&S1 by AS:** Due to lack of Eco-DRR case studies which we can see in the study tour banner's Needs/Challenges section, we cannot convince the infrastructure companies to use Ecosystem approaches rather than infrastructure approaches. I hope we could overcome the lack of case studies to convince the infrastructure persons to use Eco-DRR approaches instead.

- **Closing Remarks on TK's Presentation** by AS

Thanks from TK for sharing SECO's infrastructure financing program. Though Mr. TK put an emphasis on infrastructure and engineering methods in these projects, but as environmentalists we suggest these projects to use Ecosystem-based approaches for achieving sustainable development through their financing programs.

- **Presentation on DRR/DRM Projects of GIZ** by EO (GIZ)

GIZ is a federal company of Germany operating in 130 countries. GZ is supporting the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in the implementation of its objectives in the



field of international cooperation for support to sustainable development. In addition, GIZ is actively involved in international educational and outreach work, as well as it helps people and society to improve their own prospects and living conditions.

In Kyrgyzstan, GIZ has been working since early 1990s. In accordance with National Development Strategy, GIZ implements projects in priority areas of “Sustainable economic development” and “Health care”. GIZ activity also covers the education system, the legal and judicial reform, cross-border dialogue on water resources management in Central Asia, as well as the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

GIZ has DRR/DRM Projects worldwide in following countries:

- ✓ 2009-2013 DRM Project in China
- ✓ 2010-2014 Flood Risk Management Project in Mekong Region
- ✓ 2013-2016 Flood Risk Management in Thailand
- ✓ 2006-2014 Tsunami Early Warning System Project in Philippines
- ✓ 2005-2009 Urban DRM, Disaster Preventive Reconstruction Project in Philippines
- ✓ 2011-2016 DRM/DRR and Climate Change Adaptation Project in Bangladesh
- ✓ 2012-2017 Flood Risk Management Project in Vietnam
- ✓ 2006-2011 DRM, Disaster Prevention Project in Pakistan
- ✓ 2013-2015 DRM, Disaster Prevention Project in Afghanistan
- ✓ 2012-2015 DRM/DRR (Environmental Protection Program) Project in India
- ✓ 2005-2009 DRM, DRR Projects in schools in Sri Lanka
- ✓ 2007-2012 Cross-border DRM in Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan
- ✓ 2007-2011 DRM, DRR, and Disaster Prevention Projects in Tajikistan
- ✓ 2011-2014 Cross-border DRM, DRR in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
- ✓ 2013-2016 DRM, DRR, Disaster Preventive Reconstruction Projects in Tschad
- ✓ 2005-2013 Flood Risk Management, DRR, and DRM Projects in Mozambique
- ✓ 2011-2016 DRR/Climate Change Adaptation Projects in Uganda
- ✓ 2011-2016 Disaster Preventive Reconstruction Projects in Haiti
- ✓ 2011-2016 DRM Mainstreaming (Planning, Investment) Projects in Peru

Now I will go through some of the DRR/DRM Projects GIZ has implemented:

- *Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Zeravshan Valley of Tajikistan (2007-2011) 4.1 Mio €*  
*Support to local communities in the disaster-prone mountainous and isolated Zeravshan Valley*

#### Outcomes:

- 60 mitigation measures (riverbank reinforcement, repair of infrastructure and irrigation channels, anti-erosion)
- Disaster Response Teams in 16 villages established
- Communication systems installed, connecting 80 villages with national DRM Agency
- Training and Rescue Centre for national DRM Agency and Red Crescent established

- Disaster Response Plans prepared and simulation exercises conducted

#### Project Partners:

- Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES)
- Red Crescent and German Red Cross
- German Agro Action (Deutsche Welthungerhilfe)
- THW

#### ➤ *Strengthening Local Administration in Disaster Risk Management in Badakhshan Province*

*(09/2010-12/2013) 2.9 Mio €*

*Governmental and non-governmental actors on province and district level in selected villages of Badakhshan Province have a better disaster preparedness*

#### Activities:

- Capacity development for authorities
- Community-based DRM
- Research, awareness-raising, and mainstreaming

#### Project Partners:

- Provincial Governor of Badakhshan Province
- Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC)
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
- 5 district administrations and 32 municipalities

#### ➤ *Support to Regional Cooperation for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Central Asia*

*(2011-2014) 2.2 Mio €*

*Cooperation of national DRM Agencies in Central Asia is strengthened and disaster risk in villages in western Fergana valley is reduced*

#### Activities:

- DRR at village level in western Fergana valley (mitigation measures, disaster response teams)
- Strengthening of cross-border disaster response capacities of national DRM agencies and Red Crescent in western Fergana Valley
- Support of knowledge transfer among national DRM agencies
- Strengthening of coordination mechanisms for international emergency aid in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan

#### Project Partners:

- Ministries of Emergency Situations Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, Committee of Emergency Situations Tajikistan

- Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, Almaty
- Red Crescent and German Red Cross

➤ *Structural mitigation measures*

From 2013 to 2014 GIZ implemented 32 mitigation projects aimed at reducing and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters and capacity building of local communities in Batken region of Kyrgyzstan. These projects have been agreed and selected during the assessment of risks vulnerability and capacity of local communities, taking into account the planned measures of MES on SPLM (Special Preventive and Liquidating Measures).

Over 6,000 gabion nets have been installed. The projects also provided other construction materials such as cement, rebar, metal pipes, I-beams, stone, construction tools, fuel for machinery.

Project Partners:

- Ministry of Emergency Situations of KR
- Local governments
- Local communities
- UNWFP, RAS extension service, Red Crescent Societies

➤ *Slope stabilisation and erosion control on 4 ha of rain fed land*

Location:

Orto-Asia, Suzak raion, Jalaabad Oblast (12 km from Jalalabad city)

Number of beneficiaries:

The direct beneficiaries are 15 families which are already organized in a group (formerly they tried to establish trees on the surrounding hills, but they failed due to lack of fencing). Indirect beneficiary is the whole population of the village Orto Asia (2650 inhabitants) as they are expected to benefit from slope stabilization and reduced risk of mudslides and flash floods.

The selected location is characterized by moderate to steep hills which are used as extensive pastures in spring and autumn. Left without any tree cover and only sparse grassy vegetation, the uncontrolled grazing has led to severe damages: due to continuous erosion, fertile topsoil is lost and – as a result the water infiltration and storage capacity of the soil has been reduced significantly. In case of rain, most of the water leaves the area as surface runoff, leaving behind rapidly growing gullies.

The following measures shall be implemented in the frame of the proposed micro project:



1. Fencing: the first and most important measure is to fence the area of the micro watershed (approx... 4 ha) in order to protect it from grazing animals.
2. Tree planting: in order to reduce the risk of failure, it is proposed to plant a variety of different tree species. This will include drought tolerant tree species such as “jidga” (which mainly serves for slope stabilisation and biomass production) as well as fruit trees (apricot, pistachio, almond, and walnut) where appropriate.  
The proposed planting technique includes the application of organic fertilizer for better water retention as well as mulching around the planted seedlings to reduce evaporation losses.
3. Soil and water conservation measures: digging of contour trenches will help to reduce surface runoff and increase water infiltration on the slope. Additional half-moon terraces around the newly planted trees will minimize the risk of drought during the summer months.
4. Rain water harvesting: in order to temporarily store the rain water, 3 simple water reservoirs (each 3 m<sup>3</sup>) shall be established. During the dry season, this water can be used for irrigation purposes.
5. Sowing fodder plants: Lucerne shall be planted for two purposes: 1) to increase the vegetative cover of the soil and thus increase water infiltration, and 2) to receive higher productivity from the plot (fodder for animals)

➤ *Strengthening livelihoods through climate change adaptation measures in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan*

Project duration: 7/2014 – 12/2018

Project partner countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

Project Implementation Area: Batken province (Kyrgyzstan) and Sughd Province (Tajikistan)

Project Implementing Partners:

- a. Political partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Amelioration of the Kyrgyz Republic and Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan

Project objective: the livelihoods of the vulnerable rural population in selected communities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are strengthened through climate change adaptation measures.

Main Activities:

- a. Climate Change Adaptation in the Agricultural Sector
- b. Disaster Prevention and Preparedness
- c. Support to Local Administration and other Governmental Institutions

Shortly we help to reduce risks by improving local infrastructure, we also help to increase the capacities of the Ministries of Emergency Situations, and we also set up local disaster management committees together with Red Crescent Societies in vulnerable villages in the Ferghana valley.

- **Question-and-answer session on EO's Presentation**

**Q1 by MHS:** Are the communities involved in your projects?

**A1 by EO:** Yes, we organize community meetings and the interventions are based on these community meetings.

**Q2 by EK:** Can you share a success story of these projects?

**A2 by EO:** All of our projects are successful but only one of the projects failed due to conflict among the residential villages.

**Q3 by AS:** Did you follow National Climate Change and Environmental Plans in your projects?

**A3 by EO:** No, but our projects are based on the experience of local people and our experts.

**Q4 by TK:** How is the watering system of these projects?

**A4 by EO:** We have different irrigation systems for these projects.

- **Closing Remarks on EO's Presentation**, by AS

Thank you Ms. EO for her detailed presentation on different DRR projects. For sustainable development we should keep in mind that Eco-DRR approaches are more sustainable than engineering methods. Now I will request IS to explain the Role of Kyrgyzstan's MoEP.

- **Presentation on Role of Kyrgyzstan's State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF)** by IS (SAEPF)

The Environmental Protection Agency under the Soviet State Committee on Environment Protection was established in 1988. In 1996, a new agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection, was formed. In 2000, two ministries, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, were transformed to a single ministry. In 2005, the Ministry was reorganized and a separate State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was formed.

The State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry has eight departments. The Agency works at the national and regional levels. The central office is located in Bishkek and employs 60 people. There are more than 2000 employees working of the Agency in the whole country. We closely work with UNDP, FAO, and other partners. All the issues on environmental protection are addressed in coordination with other state and non-state agencies and stakeholders.

- **Question-and-answer session on IS's Explanation**



**Q1 by NS:** Does your agency work on CC?

**A1 by IS:** The government has short, medium, and long term projects. The climate change usually affects all aspects – economical, social, etc. All ministries are involved in the agency’s work.

• **Closing Remarks on IS’s Presentation**, by AS

Thanks Mr. IS for pointing out the economical and social aspects of Climate Change projects. Now we will go for lunch and after the lunch we will listen to other presentations and will have a workshop.

• **Presentation on UNDP’s Disaster Risk Mitigation and Green Projects** by NSA and MA (UNDP)

The local level interventions of UNDP in Kyrgyzstan started in 2005. In the first years the projects implemented by UNDP aimed at increasing public awareness regarding disaster risks, risk management, and construction of engineering structures; and organizing volunteer rescue teams through civil society organizations. Further projects aimed at risk assessment and risk management. We also implement small projects that are focused on irrigation sectors, as an example we construct small dams and have covered 40 communities in Kyrgyzstan. UNDP has supported and strengthened the government bodies in terms of capacity building. The main important activity of UNDP has been vulnerability study and disaster assessment in recent years, and after completion of these activities we started to establish monitoring and warning systems, and also organizing volunteer rescue teams. Our activities now aim at increasing awareness and mitigation projects.

Since 2008, the UNDP program has been extended to national level in Kyrgyzstan to cover all communities. The main support that was covered at national level is strengthening institutional framework, capacity development at local level, coordination and response mechanisms at national level through NGOs and government. Through UNDP and other organizations we have prepared the national platform on Disaster Risk Management.

Starting from 2012-2016 UNDP has a new project – Effective Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development – that the main aspects are sustainable development and environmental protection. The main purpose of this project is disaster prevention at national level, introduction of integrated approach to risk management, increasing capacity of communities, disaster monitoring, disaster assessment, and finally strengthening a regional cooperation.

At national level:

- ✓ We improve collection of statistics information on environment and disasters
- ✓ We increase the technical capacity of emergency situations
- ✓ We had a conference in Central Asia where regional dialogue was established within the Central Asian countries

- ✓ Through local levels based on our previous experience we support MoES in order to reform rescuing services during disasters, and one of the main part of our program is to introduce and implement green mitigation projects at local level.
- ✓ We build nurseries and community forestry for local communities. The number of beneficiaries were 11543 people.

- **Question-and-answer session on NSA and MA's Presentation**

**Q1 by EK:** Regarding rescue group, what are the challenges and how do you make sure that they are sustainable and what are they really doing?

**A1 by NSA and MA:** There was no challenge in establishing the rescue groups as it is important for the people themselves and they know it. The rescue teams are jointly cooperating with government bodies, and the local government cooperates in recruiting these volunteers for rescue committee and that's why they are sustainable. These committees are helping rescue services in every field from medical help to teaching.

**Q1 by AS:** What role are you playing for 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action?

**A1 by NSA and MA:** We work with government to prioritize our tasks and the projects, and also now we are planning for regional dialogue through a consultancy and development of joint statement on behalf of Central Asian countries.

- **Closing Remarks on NSA and MA's Presentation** by AS

Thanks to UNDP colleagues for sharing their projects on disaster risk mitigation and their additional green projects. Now we will start the workshop session.

## ❖ *Workshop Session*

- **Opening Statement** by AS

Dear friends, now we will have a workshop. The participants will be divided into five groups where each group focuses on one, but different five components of Eco-DRR Project. Through the workshop you will work on using the five components of Eco-DRR Project - *Policy Advocacy, Capacity Development, Pilot Demonstrations, Knowledge Products, Partnerships and Learning Exchanges*- in your own respective countries. You will work on the five components of Eco-DRR Project based on the four following points:

1. *Current Situation*
2. *Proposed Actions*
3. *Long-term Impacts*
4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*

So, accordingly you will be divided into five groups:

1. Group of “Policy Advocacy”: NS, TK, MNM, AS
2. Group of “Capacity Development”: MHS, KA, SB
3. Group of “Pilot Demonstrations”: EK, GP, AB
4. Group of “Knowledge Products”: AS, NS, MNM, TK
5. Group of “Partnerships and Learning Exchanges”: MF, AAM

You will be collecting your ideas on the flip-charts. You need to have a group secretary who will write down the ideas on flip-chart, and a spokesman who will present the ideas with all participants. After the ideas of the workshop is presented, the three countries will explain the Eco-DRR work-plan for their countries.

- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Project - Policy Advocacy in three countries by TK (SDC)**

Dear friends, our group’s idea on implementing Eco-DRR Project’s Policy Advocacy component in three countries based on the four points, is as following:

1. *Current Situation*

- We have the Second National Communication (SNC) on Climate
- We have National Disaster Plan
- We have NSDS (National Sustainable Development Plan)
- Kyrgyzstan has a platform and secretariat for environmental policy advocacy

2. *Proposed Actions*

- We should not start a new action but with cooperation with other existing actions we should advocate Eco-DRR policies in the three countries
- We should strengthen the platform and secretariat for environmental policy advocacy
- We should exchange policies with such other current policies without policy contradiction

3. *Long-term Impacts*

- In the long-term strong networks will be built nationally and internationally
- In the long-term larger Eco-DRR schemes will be established in these countries

4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*

- Stocktaking/audit
- Knowledge/science
- Institutional capacity
- Project cycle approach with adaptive management
- Political will for implementation of Eco-DRR projects
- Champions/leaders

- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Capacity Development in three countries by MHS (UNEP)**

Dear friends, our group’s idea on implementing Eco-DRR Project’s Capacity Development component in three countries based on the four points, is as following:

1. *Current Situation*

- Lack of professional management
- Lack of budget/funds
- Lack of communication/networking
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of technicians
- Lack of research centres
- Institutional corruption
- Lack of experts

2. *Proposed Actions*

- Development of strategies of Capacity Building
- Improvement in management
- Better communication/networking
- Allocation of budget for capacity building
- Workshops, trainings, and conferences
- Increase involvement of young experts
- Development and collaboration of research centres
- Awareness raising tools (media, associations, etc.) to be used

3. *Long-term Impacts*

- Improvement of awareness
- Equipped and efficient institutions
- Efficient communication/networking
- Professional management
- Collaborative organizations
- New technologies by young generation

4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*

- Human Resources
- Funds
- Technology
- Policies, strategies, and implementation of laws
- Data sharing, collaboration and agreement
- Relevant methodology and professional management

- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Pilot Demonstrations in three countries by GP (FOCUS)**

Dear friends, our group's idea on implementing Eco-DRR Project's Pilot Demonstration component in three countries based on the four points, is as following:

1. *Current Situation*

- Flooding, desertification, erosion, and other hazards in three countries

2. *Proposed Actions*

- Awareness raising
- Trainings
- Scientific methods should be applied

- Pilot demonstration areas to be selected
- Project implementation
- Modernizing the Hydro-meteorological centres
- 3. *Long-term Impacts*
  - Conservation of pasture land
  - Increase of livestock
  - Potential for energy
  - Income generation
  - Landscape preservation
  - Better weather forecasting
- 4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*
  - Human resources
  - Finance resources
  - Collaboration with partners
- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Knowledge Products in three countries by NS (NEPA)**

Dear friends, our group's idea on implementing Eco-DRR Project's Knowledge Products component in three countries based on the four points, is as following:

1. *Current Situation*
  - Knowledge products exist but not with sufficient quality or non-relevance
2. *Proposed Actions*
  - Internationally approved references to be used
  - Detailed information in core areas to be included in knowledge products
  - Government, society, practitioners, national and international parties to cooperate in knowledge products.
  - Campaign to be delivered regarding knowledge products
  - Partnerships and cooperation with different related agencies
3. *Long-term Impacts*
  - Economical and environmental sustainability through awareness raising
  - Social benefits
  - Increased knowledge which leads to power strengthening
4. *Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts*
  - Technical resources
  - Financial resources
  - Scientific resources
- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Project – Partnerships and Learning Exchanges in three countries by MF (MSRI, UCA)**

Dear friends, our group's idea on implementing Eco-DRR Project's Partnerships and Learning Exchanges component in three countries based on the four points, is as following:

1. *Current Situation*



- National networks are present in some countries but they are not strengthened
- Lack of Eco-DRR Regional networking
- Few implementation sites

## 2. Proposed Actions

- Strengthening national and regional partnerships through: 1) setting virtual networks, 2) conducting joint activities (e.g. study tour), and 3) planning and executing research projects (e.g. USAID water and climate initiative)
- Joint research project and networking through: 1) assessing and introducing global best practices to the field for policy makers and project managers, 2) local socio-ecological contextualization, and 3) reviewing and analysing pilot site experiences, DRR and livelihood outcomes
- Raising awareness of Eco-DRR approaches and outcomes amongst regional, national, and local stakeholders and network partners

## 3. Long-term Impacts

- Enhanced knowledge
- Dissemination of knowledge/internalization of knowledge

## 4. Inputs/Resources Needed to Reach Long-term Impacts

- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Awareness resources
- Time

## • Comments and Suggestions on MF's presentation

**C&S1 by MHS:** In Afghanistan, we are going to work on a CCA Network for better learning and partnership exchanges. As it will be a new initiative we will probably be needing regional cooperation for better efficiency of the network. I hope the participating countries get involved in our CCA Network for a better Climate Change Adaptation, and help us in different matters including CCA toolkit.

**Reply to C&S1 by MF:** UCA will be happy to join the network, and we will soon share our ideas on the CCA toolkit within your CCA Network.

## • Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for Bamyan province of Afghanistan by MHS (UNEP)

Dear friends, our Eco-DRR Work-plan for Bamyan province of Afghanistan is as following:

### 1. Types of disasters

- Floods
- Landslides
- Avalanches
- Harsh winter
- Sand storms
- Earthquake
- Droughts

- Land degradation
- 2. *Challenges*
  - Lack of awareness
  - Lack of communication
  - Weak institutions
  - Centralized policies
  - Lack of capacity building
  - Low level of coordination
  - Financial challenges
  - Security and social unrest
  - Lack of research
  - Lack of technology and facilities
  - Climate factors
- 3. *Solutions*
  - DRR mainstreaming in the policies and development plans
  - Institutional strengthening
  - Coordination
  - Ecological interventions
  - EWS
  - Community based risk reduction
  - Vulnerability reduction
  - CBDRM programs
  - Disaster preparedness
  - Emergency fund
  - Establishing community committees on disaster
  - Disaster risk assessment
  - Disaster management plans
  - DRR mainstreaming in educational curriculum
  - Research programmes
  - International, local, and regional networking
- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for GBAO area of Tajikistan by GP (FOCUS)**

Dear friends, our Eco-DRR Work-plan for GBAO area (Khorog city and 7 districts – Rushan, Vanj, Darvaz, Shugnan, Roshtqala, Ishrashim, and Murgab) of Tajikistan is as following:

- 1. *Types of disasters*
  - Flooding
  - Desertification
  - Erosion
  - Strong winds
- 2. *Solutions*
  - Tree nurseries to be established
  - Pasture management

- Awareness raising sessions
- Policy advocacy
- Pilot demonstrations
- 3. *Partners*
  - Local government
  - COES
  - Hydrometeorology Department
  - Geology Department
  - Agriculture Department
  - Academy of Science
  - Local NGOs
  - UNEP/AKDN/SDC
- **Presentation on Eco-DRR Work-plan for Naryn province of Kyrgyzstan by TK (SDC)**

Dear friends our Eco-DRR Work-plan for Naryn province of Kyrgyzstan is as following:

1. *Types of disasters*
    - Flooding
    - Avalanches
    - Soil erosion
    - Landslide
  2. *Solutions*
    - Capacity building
    - Pilot demonstrations
    - Policy advocacy
    - Community nurseries
    - Planting tree cuttings
    - Mainstreaming Eco-DRR approaches in provincial/national policies
    - Awareness raising through trainings, seminars, and workshops
    - Community based interventions
    - Improvement of irrigation systems
    - Increasing vegetation cover and reducing erosion through grazing management, reseeded degraded areas
  3. *Partners*
    - Local government
    - SDC
    - MSDSP
    - FOCUS
    - Other environmental agencies
    - Regional and international partners
- **Closing Remarks of the workshop and study tour, by AS**





Dear friends, thanks for sharing your ideas on the 5 components of Eco-DRR and the Eco-DRR work-plan in your countries. I request the participants to visit the study tour stall where the different participating organization's knowledge products are exhibited. Then we will request you to fill the evaluation forms of the study tour; later we will have study tour participation certificate distribution to the participants, a wrap up, and finally the study tour will end with a group photo.

