

“Clima East: Ecosystem based approaches to CC pilot project”**Project field trip report (July 11, 2013)**

Participants: 1. Mr. Eltekin Omarov, Project Manager, UNDP
2. Ms. Silvija Kalnins, Regional coordinator of Clima East

Venue: Ismayilli, Azerbaijan

Date: July, 2013

Objective: The purpose of the visit was to visit the potential pilot site pasture area and meet with at least one local stakeholder.

Trip timetable:

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
11.07.2013	9.00-12.00	Travel from Baku to Ismayilli
11.07.2013	19:00-21:30	Travel from Ismayilli Baku

Activities:

The main purpose of the trip was visit of regional coordinator of Clima East Silvija Kalnins to the region to see potential pilot area for implementation of Ecosystem based approaches to CC project.

Initial meeting was held with Hasan Hasanov, deputy head of local executive power authority in Ismayilli responsible for agricultural issues. Later, chief veterinary of rayon was appointed to accompany our group to the field.

Trip to Lahidj started with providing statistic information and about general condition and of summer pasture area by chief veterinary, Barat Shahayev:

There are 26.591 ha of summer pastures in Ismayilli out of which 12.776 ha under supervision of the rayon executive power authority (around 12.000 ha according to Barat Shahayev) and 4.476 ha under local municipalities.

Official statistic for number of sheep is 142.6 thousand, around 180.00 according to the chief veterinary.

There are 54 farmers all together, 22 local, the rest are farmers from different rayons and refugees.

Total area of summer pastures in Azerbaijan 520.000 ha, 203.000 ha area is under occupation. Average number of sheep per ha is 20.

One farmer and farm area was visited to see situation for visual appraisal. Farm area leased by Azamat (refugee) constitutes 120 ha with around 1000 sheep, more than 30 cows (cattle are forbidden in both pasturelands) grazing. The rent fee is 1,20 AZN per ha according to lease contract. This particular lease holder has short term, 1 year contract. No interest is demonstrated for restoration and rehabilitation works due to short term contract and instability in pasture in terms of fodder and productivity. As its seen from info provided by shepherd 1000 of sheep + 30 cows ($30 \times 6 = 180$) = $1180/1\text{ha} = 11.8$ sheep per ha. Quota per ha in summer pasture is 4 to 8 sheep. 8 sheep can be considered in case of high fertility and productivity of the area. If we calculate fertile and 30 % of unfertile part of the pasture, then overstocking is clearly seen.

Signs of erosion, degradation were seen very clearly even at this elevation (1500m). Many signs of cattle track, steep slopes with soft stones characteristic to the place (limestone in Shahdag summer pasture, which are more stable) to be able to roll down in case of heavy rain, thorny and aromatic plants which are not liked by animals etc were also observed.

Conclusion:

Area needs to be inventoried to have full and detailed picture of current situation and ability of the land to produce fodder. Certain geobotanical investigations, soil survey and of course, socioeconomic and ecological assessment of area is needed to create sustainable management system for monitoring and evaluation of territory for future restoration activities.