

BARAK ELDE



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BIODIVERSITY
IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR
OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

UNDP – GEF
Project

KHAN TENIRI
STATE NATURE PARK
IS THE LARGEST NATURE
PARK IN KYRGYZSTAN FOR
CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY
AND ECOSYSTEMS

WILDLIFE
CORRIDORS:
MIGRATION ROUTES
OF WILD ANIMALS ARE
NOW UNDER SPECIAL
PROTECTION

ULAN DOKONBAEV:

There were enough challenges during establishment of Khan Teniri State Nature Park

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER:

The staff of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park are equipped with skills to conserve biodiversity

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BIODIVERSITY

IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Biological diversity is the main foundation for functioning of ecosystems and ecosystem services necessary for the welfare of humankind. It plays an important role for livelihood of communities and economic development, and it is a prerequisite for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals including poverty reduction.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, HAVING JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TAKES ACTIVE MEASURES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE IMPORTANT CONDITION OF WHICH IS ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY.

Almost 90 percent of the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic is at an altitude of more than 1500 m above sea level. Mountain ecosystems of the country support a unique population of plants and animals. The territory of this mountainous region is characterized by a high degree of biodiversity concentration not only at the ecosystem level but also at the species level.

The main reasons for the reduction of species diversity in the Kyrgyz Republic are fragmentation of habitats,

reduction in the total habitat area of species as well as biocenological consequences of anthropogenic impacts.

In order to preserve unique natural complexes and biological diversity, to protect rare and threatened species of the flora and the fauna, to expand specially protected nature areas of the Kyrgyz Republic in the last two years three state parks with the total area of 363,123 hectares were organized.

An ecosystem approach is implemented everywhere, with involvement of all stakeholders in environmental management at the local and central levels. For the first time, environmental corridors between specially protected nature areas were established to ensure sustainability of large animals' migration routes and to protect biodiversity. The work is intensifying to involve local communities in the decision-making on nature protection and joint management of natural resources.

With joint efforts a reliable system of long-term incentives was established to shift to sustainable development principles with minimal impact on the environment, increased efficiency of natural resources management based on international experience, taking into account local conditions.



Rustamov Abdykalyk Alibekovich

Director of the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic



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PROTECTING THE NATURE:

THE UN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



CONSERVATION OF NATURE IS NOT AN OBJECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS OR COUNTRIES. IT IS A COMMON GOAL OF THE HUMANKIND BECAUSE THE DIVERSITY OF LIVING COMMUNITIES IS THE FOUNDATION FOR REPRODUCTION OF FAVORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS. CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS IS INDISPENSABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLEAN WATER, FRESH AIR AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE.



In 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in Rio de Janeiro. Today it has 194 participants. Kyrgyzstan became a party to the Convention in 1996.

Biodiversity components are all the diverse forms of life on Earth, including ecosystems, animals, plants, fungi, microorganisms and genetic diversity.

One of the basic principles of the Convention states that ecosystems, species and genetic resources should be used for

the benefit of people, but in a way that does not lead to the depletion of biodiversity. In accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law, states have the sovereign right to develop their own resources in compliance with their environment policy and are responsible for ensuring that activities within their jurisdiction or under their control do not damage the environment of other states or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.



EACH PARTY TO THE CONVENTION SHALL:

Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;

Regulate and manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;

Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;

Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas;

Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, inter alia, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies;

Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species; Endeavour to provide the conditions needed for



Photo: Davletbakov A.

compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

Develop or implement necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations.

UNDP-GEF PROJECT



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

25 years
in the Kyrgyz Republic

Improving the Coverage and Management Effectiveness of Protected Nature Areas (PAs) in the Central Tian Shan Mountains Project is implemented by the United Nations Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic with financial grant support from the Global Environment Facility and in close coordination with the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Project Outcomes:

COMPONENT 1:

Threatened species representation is improved by increasing coverage and management effectiveness of specially protected areas in Central Tian Shan

- Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of February 12, 2016 No. 62 established Khan Teniri State Nature Park on an area of 275,800.3 hectares;
- The State Act on the right to unlimited land use of Khan Teniri State Nature Park was issued;

The project has been implemented from 2013 to 2017 in the Issyk-Kul region. It is aimed at conservation of threatened species. In the Central Tian Shan there are several globally vulnerable species, including the snow leopard.

5,916,666 USD, including USD 950,000 grant funding from the Global Environment Facility and the remaining USD 4,966,666 are parallel and non-material contribution from national partners and the UNDP.

Until 2013, 11.3 % of the territory of the Central Tien Shan was a specially protected area. By the end of the project the coverage increased to 32.19 % through establishment of a new protected area in the Khan Teniri area. The project also improved the connectivity between Khan Teniri and Sarychat Ertash PAs in the Central Tian Shan through the establishment of wildlife corridors and the effective management of the surrounding areas. Local communities now have the opportunity to implement income generating projects that do not threaten the biodiversity of the Tian Shan.

During the project implementation there was close coordination with local state administrations, local self-governments and communities in the Issyk-Kul region, the scientific community, the private sector and the civil society. The total budget is USD



Photo: Davletbakov A.

- A management plan for Khan Teniri State Nature Park for 2017 - 2021 was developed to define a medium-term development plan in line with the objectives set forth in the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Specially Protected Nature Areas" and in the Regulations for Khan Teniri State Nature Park;
- Khan Teniri State Nature Park is provided with equipment for the protection and monitoring of biodiversity;
- The staff of Khan Teniri and Karakol state parks are trained to monitor and protect biodiversity, and to keep Nature Records;
- Methodological recommendations for long-term monitoring of biodiversity status in the territory of Khan Teniri State Nature Park were developed;
- Data on the number of wild animals in the territories of the target PAs obtained during the state registration in the autumn - winter period of 2016 were included in the wild animals database of Kyrgyzstan;
- Forest and hunting management planning for Khan Teniri State Nature Park was completed;
- Study tours to Chon Kemin PA (Chui province) and Salkyn Tor (Naryn province) were organized for the staff of state parks and decision-makers to learn about management of parks and involving the local communities in activities in the PAs;
- The staff of 20 state parks and reserves are trained in the management effectiveness assessment tool to measure the effectiveness

of protected areas (METT). METT score for Khan Teniri PA is 53, for Sarychat Ertash Reserve - 71.

COMPONENT 2:

Habitat connectivity, sustainability and effectiveness of PAs are enhanced by regulating land use in buffer zones, wildlife corridors and other intervening landscapes

Expert and technical support in drafting several normative legal documents was provided:

1. Regulations on the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic;
2. Regulations on the organization of PAs in the Kyrgyz Republic;
3. 3. Regulations on the tender procedure for granting to legal entities of the right to hunting in certain hunting areas of the Republic;
4. Regulations on the procedure for the use of lands of state nature parks of the Kyrgyz Republic;
5. The Issyk-Kul environmental and economic system development program integrated into the Issyk-Kul Sustainable Development Strategy for 2015 - 2017;
6. Regulations on Wildlife Corridors of the Kyrgyz Republic;
7. Proposed amendments





Photo: Rozen-Michel T.

to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Protected Areas”.

- The outer boundaries of wildlife corridors between Sarychat Ertash PA and Khan Teniri PA (9061.1 hectares) were determined; primary

and secondary land users were identified;

- The wildlife corridors regime was adopted by the Resolution of Ak Suu district administration of 9.12.2016. №171 “On Wildlife Corridors between Sarychat Ertash State Reserve and Khan Teniri PA;

- Agreements were signed between village administrations, private hunting enterprises (located on 793,234 hectares adjacent to PAs), tour operators and Khan Teniri PA and Sarychat ertash State Nature Reserve on the rational use of natural resources in the protected areas in the Central Tian Shan and adjacent territories and wildlife corridors;



Photo: Lazkov G.

- Two groups of non-staff environment protection inspectors were formed from the local residents of Enilchek (Ak Suu district) and Ak Shyirak (Jety Oguz district) village municipalities. There were no violations of environment legislation in the territory of the target PAs. The number of detected violations in the Ak Suu and Jety Oguz pastures outside the PAs territory for the period of 2013 - 2016



range from 34 to 59. The highest number of detected violations occurred in 2015 - 59. In 2016, compared to 2015, the number of violations decreased by 42.4 %;

- A public council was established to ensure the partnership between Khan Teniri PA and local self-governments and local communities;
- A Memorandum of mutual cooperation was signed between the Natural Resources Management Department, the Department of Pastures and the Tourism Department to joint efforts for drafting and introduction of amendments to the legal framework of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure the conservation of biodiversity in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- For the first time in the Kyrgyz Republic, the problems of occurrence and spread of infectious diseases of wild animals and preventive measures were discussed among representatives of 30 different state and non-profit organizations. The decision was made to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation on reducing the risks of occurrence and spread of infectious diseases among animals;
- An interagency document "Directive for the interaction of government agencies to combat violations of environmental legislation" between seven law enforcement and other specialized state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic and the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry is at the signing stage;
- The Program on alternative sources of income is under implementation. 16 project proposals from 7 village administrations of Ak Suu district, Issyk-Kul province, were financed in the amount of USD 139,000 to reduce the anthropogenic negative impact on the flora and the fauna, to improve access to alternative businesses that do not harm nature.

NATURE IS OUR MAIN TREASURE: BIODIVERSITY OF THE KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATE
OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE KR FOR 2006 - 2011

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC IS HOME TO ABOUT 2 % of the world flora species
and OVER 3 % OF THE WORLD FAUNA SPECIES. This is quite
a lot given the country's area accounts for only 0.03 %
OF THE PLANET'S AREA, OR 0.13 % OF THE LAND AREA.



ARE REGISTERED IN VARIOUS
ECOSYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



26 500 species

of viruses, bacteria,
fungi, plants and animals

14 600 species

IN THE FAUNA OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,
THE MOST EXTENSIVE GROUP
IS THE INSECT CLASS



CURRENTLY, THE LIST OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS INCLUDES

587 species

70

species
of

fish

4

species
of

amphibians

39

species
of

reptiles

390

species
of

birds

84

species
of

mammals

IN THE WILD FLORA THERE ARE

2179 | **1196** | **495**

species of fungi

species of algae

species of
lichens

THE PLANT WORLD
OF KYRGYZSTAN INCLUDES

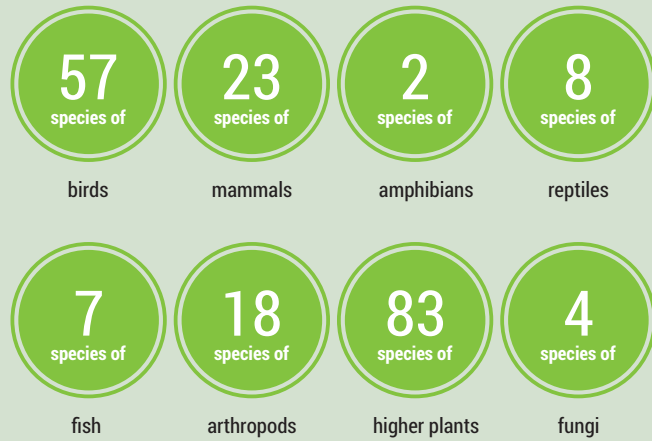
8 153 species



183 | **4100**

species of
bryophytes

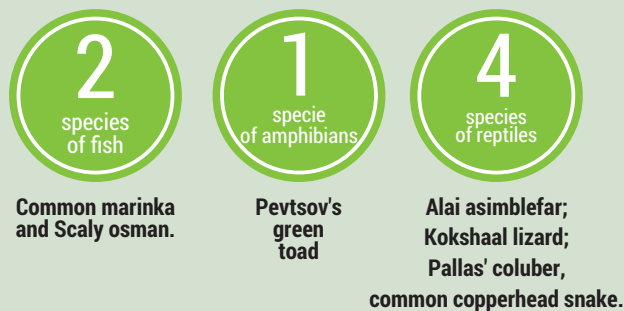
species of
flowering plants



ARE INCLUDED IN THE RED DATA BOOK OF KYRGYZSTAN.

FAUNA

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, KHAN TENIRI PA IS HOME TO:



Also, it should be specially noted that Kokshaal lizard described by V.K. Yeremchenko and A. Panfilov in 1999, inhabits only this region of Kyrgyzstan.

BIRDS

According to preliminary data, up to 100 bird species inhabit here. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of birds. 20 or 30 more species may be added since Khan Teniri PA lies on the migration route through the mountain massifs of the Central Tian Shan. In this area there are many small lakes that play an important role for water fowl in the migration period.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIES OF BIRDS LISTED IN THE RED BOOK INHABIT KHAN TENIRI PA:

STEPPE EAGLE/GOLDEN EAGLE/BEARDED VULTURE/
BLACK GRIFFON/HIMALAYAN GRIFF – KUMAI/
SAKER FALCON/IBIS-BILL/OWL

TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY, A NETWORK OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF

1 476 121,6 hectares



TO DATE, THERE ARE



Khan Teniri State Nature Park is located in Ak Suu district, Issyk-Kul province. The park's territory is still little affected by human economic activity, and the main landscapes have remained practically in a natural state. With appropriate protection, this area will become a reference landscape site of the highlands of the Central Tian Shan.

There are 10 ecosystems in the park: mountain taiga (Spruce forest); white wood (floodplain forests); steppes and meadow steppes; Mesophilic mountain redshanks (Subalpine meadows); Cryomesophilic grass (alpine heaths, cobresivians); Cryoxerophilic cushion plants; Petrophytes; Semi-shrub deserts; submerged vegetation; and creeping junipers.

The territory of Khan Teniri PA is a place of aggregation of a large number of argali during the rutting season and a wintering place for the argali populations of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Also, on the territory of Khan Teniri PA there is a large number of Ibex, which can serve as the core for maintaining and resettlement of the Ibex population in the Central Tian Shan. This part of the area is a natural wildlife corridor connecting the territories of Sarychat Ertash nature reserve and the mountain systems of China and Kazakhstan, where genetic exchange between the populations of the three countries takes place.

Also, it should be noted that compared to other regions of Kyrgyzstan, a large population of Ibis-bill inhabits the territory of Khan Teniri PA. 29 species of mammals have been noted here. This area is home to many Red Book species such as: brown bear, rock marten, manul cat, snow leopard, and argali. This is not an exhaustive list of animals. Systematic research is needed.

A large eagle with its wings spread wide, flying over a landscape with mountains in the background. The eagle is the central focus, with its wings fully extended, showing detailed feather patterns. The background features a range of mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is a grassy field with some brown, dried vegetation.

KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK IS THE LARGEST NATURE PARK IN KYRGYZSTAN FOR CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Having prioritized the creation of specially protected areas to conserve biodiversity, the Kyrgyz Republic aims to increase the area of protected areas up to 10 % of the country's area before 2020. With the establishment of Khan Teniri PA, protected areas in the country has grown from 6.01 % to 7.38 %.

Khan Teniri State Nature Park is located in the basin of the Sary Jaz river at over 2,200 meters above sea level, with most of the area at over 3,000 meters.

In the river basin there are several mountain peaks popular among domestic and foreign mountaineers: Pobeda Peak, Khan Tengri, Voennykh, Druzhba, 110 years of VGO, Aktau, and Maxim Gorky. In addition, on the territory of Sary Jaz river basin there are 15 “fivethousander” peaks and the largest glaciers in Central Asia.

Stable functioning of Khan Teniri PA will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity of high mountain ecosystems of Central Tian Shan, including rare and threatened species of animals: snow leopard, brown bear, lynx, argali, maral, golden eagle, kumai, bearded vulture and others.



Kubanychbek Bekboev,
Director of Khan Teniri PA,
highlighted the project results and what had been done in the last 3 years.

KUBANYCHBEK MUKANBETOVICH, HOW WAS THE INITIATIVE TO CREATE KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK BORN?

The initiative to create a park was raised by the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry back in 2009. In 2013, with the support of the UNDP and the Global Environment Facility, the State Agency for Environment Protection under the KR Government launched the Improving the Coverage and Management of Specially Protected Nature Areas (PAs) in the Central Tian Shan Mountains project.

Prior to the official opening of the park, tremendous preparatory work was carried out. Previously, there was no park there. It was a vast wild life territory. Long negotiations on the organization of a new specially protected nature area were held with local communities and local authorities.

Khan Teniri is the largest park in Kyrgyzstan and the second largest in Central Asia. Its territory is almost 276,000 hectares, and it borders with China and Kazakhstan. 31,000 hectares are the state forest fund lands, 205,000 hectares - the reserve land of Ak Suu district, and 40,000 hectares of land were allocated by Teplokluchenka, Kerege Tash, Oktyabr, Ak Bulun, Boru Bash and Chelpek village municipalities. Recently, by Order of the State Agency for Environment Protection

and Forestry, 6,600 hectares of the state forest fund land of Karakol Forest Enterprise have been transferred for operational management. Thus, the total area of Khan Teniri State Nature Park is 282,000 hectares.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CREATING KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK?

The Kyrgyz, like many nomadic people, were very respectful of nature, honored its laws and lived in harmony with nature. Tales and legends about respect for nature and severe punishment of those who break its laws were passed from mouth to mouth. And, surely, we all remember one of the commandments of Manas that we must live in harmony with nature. The Sary Jaz river basin is one of the places that has been preserved in its natural state and must be protected.

According to the Kyrgyz legislation, state nature parks have a special status, they are environment protection and scientific institutions aimed at conservation of biological and landscape diversity. They have a special environmental, scientific, historical, cultural and recreational value. Khan Teniri PA is established to conserve unique nature complexes and biological diversity, and to protect rare and threatened species of the flora and the fauna.

Certainly, the conservation of rare, endangered and endemic species like the snow leopard and its ecosystems is one of our main objectives.

HOW IS THE PARK GUARDED?

Last year, with support of the UNDP and the State Agency for Environment Protection, we carried out forest and hunting management activities. It was necessary to somehow define the boundaries of the 276,000 ha area. We delimited each enclosure and installed wooden and metal poles throughout the park area. Now we are constructing a map. It is very labor intensive and expensive work. 4 million soms were spent on it.

Based on the results of forest and hunting management activities, Khan Teniri State Nature Park is divided into 4 sections, 19 ranger districts and 5,126 strata.

The territory of the Adyr Tor site is 39,352.6 ha, the Sary Jaz site is 44,260.3 ha, the Enilchek site is 101,847 ha and the Kayindy site is 90,340.4 ha.

External boundaries of the park, sections and ranger districts have been defined and specified. 201 quarters of the park have been demarcated with 113 poles, including 58 quarter poles and 55 boundary ones.

At the entrance to the park there is an arch with a sign: Khan Teniri State Nature Park. When people see it, they realize that's where the protected area starts, and they cannot go in there with weapons, hunt, or do other things that can damage biodiversity.

The material and technical foundation of Khan Teniri State Nature Park is at the stage of formation. With support from the UNDP - GEF Project, the material and technical base has been sufficiently strengthened for operationalization of the institution. The project purchased tents, sleeping bags, binoculars, portable radio sets, winter and summer uniforms, satellite GPS navigators, cameras, photo traps, computers, laptops, telephones. Horses were purchased for rangers. The PA has its own office.

All this greatly facilitated the work of the rangers. Before they had to borrow horses from shepherds, so they could not conduct daily monitoring. They could not communicate with each other, and there was no place to sleep. Now all these issues have been resolved. And GPS helps the administration monitor the work of the rangers, check whether they actually visited a particular

section, or whether they inspected the area. This year in each forest section a cordon house will be built, where rangers can spend the night.

In the Adyrtor forest section in the last 6-7 years no Marco Polo rams were observed, while now there are 16 of them. Rangers record their observation data, and Khan Teniri State Nature Park researcher consolidates the data. This work is facilitated by camera traps installed with the UNDP - GEF Project support. There are 10 camera traps throughout the territory, and we are already getting photos of wild animals: snow leopard, ibex, bear, and fox.

SO SNOW LEOPARDS DO INHABIT THE PARK?

Of course. The main prey base of the snow leopard is the Siberian ibex. If there are no ibex, it means there are no snow leopards. If ibex go to China, the leopards will follow



them. Currently, 753 Siberian ibex and 135 mountain sheep have been registered in the park. And camera traps proved that there are snow leopards in Khan Teniri PA. On the territory of the park, on the border with China there is Koigap tract. Once in 6 years, border guards go there on an expedition, the latest one was last November. They saw many snow leopards. They live where there are no people. There is virgin nature there, humans go there only every 6 years.

HOW IS KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK MANAGED?

Currently there are 30 staff members in the park - director, chief forest officer, research officer, engineer and rangers. All staff went through training. With the UNDP - GEF Project support we have learned to keep records of animals and plants, draw up acts and protocols, use GPS navigators and many other things.

With the UNDP - GEF Project support, a public council has been established to ensure partnership between Khan Teniri PA, local communities, local self-governments and other stakeholders. We are responsible for ensuring the sustainable management, biodiversity conservation and rational use of natural resources in the PA. The Council consists of 11 members representing the local self-government, non-profit organizations, the civil society and the private sector.

ULAN DOKONBAEV:

THERE WERE ENOUGH CHALLENGES DURING ESTABLISHMENT OF KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK

Residents of Ak Suu district, Issyk-Kul province, have been actively participating in biodiversity conservation since Khan Teniri State Nature Park has been established.

“Our environment is our wealth. We must conserve our unique nature in its natural form and pass it over to the next generation intact and safe,” said Head of Ak Suu district Ulan Dokonbaev.

“Khan Teniri State Nature Park in Ak Suu district, Issyk-Kul province, was established by the Government Resolution to protect rare and endangered species of flora and fauna,” said Dokonbaev.

Prior to the adoption of the Resolution, local authorities and UNDP representatives have done tremendous work and sometimes faced challenges.

“To be honest, there were enough challenges, most of them related to local communities. They were concerned we would take away their land, and they would not be able to graze their cattle on these lands. There were challenges with local council

members too. Many of them were against the opening of the park. They believed with opening of the park access to pastures in the park would be closed, and the locals would have nowhere to graze the cattle. There were long and difficult negotiations, but in the end we managed to convince the local communities and the council members that we need to protect nature, and local communities need to learn to benefit from nature without damaging it. Presently they have access to pastures, and the conditions are even better with new roads and lower tariffs for pasture use. They still have ownership of these territories, but there will be certain restrictions such as a ban on construction of buildings and hunting in these areas,” the Head of Ak Suu district explains.

According to Ulan Dokonbayev, with opening of the park local residents have got business development opportunities.

Some projects focus on ecotourism development in Khan Teniri Nature State Park and adjacent territories. For example, organization of a yurt camp for tourists.

“It’s beautiful here, but it is necessary to take care of this beauty. Tourist companies are getting ready for the coming season. Before the park was established, tourists moved freely throughout the territory. Now it is a specially protected area, so some requirements have been introduced - paid entry and recreation only in designated areas. Why entrance fee? The State Nature Park is established to conserve nature, but it has very limited opportunities to earn income to improve the park

management. The state budget mainly supports salaries and contributions to the Social Fund, and the Republican Fund for Nature Protection and Development of Forestry pays for the park’s environment, education and protection costs. But these funds are not enough to ensure effective functioning of the park,” says Ulan Dokonbaev.

Eco-tourism is almost the only opportunity to earn for the park. Revenue from eco-tourism will be spent to organize ecological trails and routes with information stands and sign posts installed in proper places and containing the necessary information; to develop permissible norms of visits,

as well as monitoring and protection.

The start-up project workshop was held in the framework of the World Snow Leopard Forum in 2013, attended by representatives of twelve countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project was especially important for the Kyrgyz Republic in light of the signing of the Global Program for the Conservation of the Snow Leopard since the territory of the Central Tian Shan is the main habitat of the snow leopard.



Photo: UNDP

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER:

STATEDD THE KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK ARE EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS TO CONSERVE BIOD

Upon establishment of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park all staff underwent training provided by the UNDP - GEF project. 45 employees of Khan Teniri PA and Karakol PA and non-staff environment protection inspectors participated in the training.

For the staff of Khan Teniri PA practical training sessions were organized in the park to study and monitor the state of mammals, birds and flora of higher plants. Sessions were delivered by researchers of the Biology and Soil Institute of the National Academy of Sciences. With their help, the Khan Teniri staff carried out a biodiversity inventory and identified monitoring sites for observation of mammals, birds and flora of higher plants.

Twenty sites were set up. Passports with names and photos of indicator species with indication of time and methods of observation were designed. They are very convenient for rangers to conduct daily monitoring.

As a result of training, the park's staff and anti-poachers gained new skills and knowledge, namely, they learned the principles of monitoring the management effectiveness



Photo: UNDP

of specially protected areas, organizing and conducting ecological monitoring and biodiversity research, counting wild animals, establishing accounting routes, identification of test sites, monitoring of the populations of mountain ungulates, counting marmots by route method, keeping birds records, filling of registration forms, the use of GPS navigators for monitoring

wild animals and protecting nature.

Employees of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park can now monitor the wild life on their own, keep logs, collect and process information and keep Nature records.

They are also trained in the preparation of documents for breaches of environmental legislation, drawing

up acts and protocols, prosecution, safety rules for hunting management in mountain areas, involving local communities in joint management and planning of PAs, systemic thinking for making environmentally sound decisions and integrating biodiversity conservation issues in local development plans.

Researcher of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park Urmatbek Abdyrov has been working in the environment protection system for over 20 years. In recent years he has specialized in protecting endangered fish species in Issyk-Kul province.

“When I was offered a job in the Khan Teniri State Nature Park, I was delighted to accept it, because the topic is very close to my heart, I devoted almost my entire life to the protection of environment. I started working in the park last May. Since then, together with other staff members, I went through training because, despite my experience and knowledge, the specifics of work in a nature park are slightly different. As a result of training, I learned a lot, acquired new knowledge and skills. We had field studies together with scientists who taught us how to properly record animals and plants. We learned how to work with GPS

navigators, draw up protocols and many other things. All this knowledge is, of course, useful for the work of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park staff, they helped set high standards of work, and everybody does his best to meet these standards and apply the knowledge in practice,” said Urmatbek Abdyrov.

He believes trained personnel will do a better quality job, which, in turn, should improve the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and protection of nature.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS:

MIGRATION ROUTES OF WILD ANIMALS ARE NOW UNDER SPECIAL PROTECTION

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONDITIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IS ENSURING UNDISTURBED MOVEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS. WILD ANIMALS ANNUALLY MIGRATE ALONG ALMOST THE SAME ROUTES. HOWEVER, GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK, HUNTING OR ANY OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITY AND BLATANT HUMAN INTERFERENCE IN THE WAY OF MOVEMENT CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT THE DIVERSITY OF FLORA AND FAUNA SPECIES AND STABILITY OF THE MIGRATION ROUTES OF LARGE MAMMALS.

Khan Teniri State Nature Park can be considered a standard for biodiversity protection and conservation because upon its creation, for the first time, wildlife corridors were established between Sarychat Ertash State Nature Reserve and Khan Teniri PA to provide enabling environment for the species diversity of the flora and fauna and stability of migration routes of large mammals under state protection.



The head of the specially protected areas department Ruslan Akulov says that establishment of wildlife corridors became possible thanks to the UNDP - GEF Project.

“Within the framework of the project, an agreement was reached with the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic that scientists carry out observations in the park. As a result of painstaking work, it was possible to determine the time and places of migration of wild animals. Scientific justification was prepared as to why wildlife corridors should be established in those places, at what time of the year animals pass through, what animals etc. Currently, four corridors have been established between the Khan Teniri State Nature Park and the Sarychat Ertash Nature Reserve: two corridors for argali migration, and the other two for ibex. Migration routes maps have been approved by all stakeholders, and Ak Suu district administration issued a resolution on the enforcement of appropriate regimes,” says Ruslan Akulov.

According to the resolution, during the migration of wild

animals, wildlife corridors should be free - no livestock grazing, no hunting, no tourists. Establishment of wildlife corridors between the Khan Teniri State Nature Park and the Sarichat Ertash Nature Reserve is the first step towards creating a wildlife network.

“Within the framework of the project, Regulations on Wildlife Corridors and proposals for amendments to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Specially Protected Nature Areas” have been drafted. They are now under review of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. After adoption of the amendments, other corridors will be established in the future. The wildlife network will link all the nature parks and reserves of the country. Thanks to UNDP, it was possible to start this network, to take the first step. Wild animals do not always stay in one place, they move from one area to another, even from one country to another, and therefore, it is important

to know their migration routes in order to ensure their safe passage,” stressed Ruslan Akulov.

In addition, zoning was carried out on the territory of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park. Four zones were identified: the first zone is a reserve regime zone where there should be no human intervention in the natural environment, only observation of the wildlife is allowed; zone of ecological stabilization where only regulated ecological tourism and restoration of destroyed natural complexes and sites are allowed; tourist zone where tourist trails, routes and camps are allowed; and finally, zone of limited economic activity where it is allowed to build roads, recreational facilities for tourists, hotels, and museums.

“We are negotiating with the Tourism Department for organizing tourism. For example, in the park there is Khan Teniri peak which



Photo: Department of conservation and natural resources

attracts foreign alpinists. We are negotiating about common routes for all tour agencies and the number of tourists that can climb the peak during the season. All of this is done to prevent excessive number of climbers harming the park's nature," noted the head of the specially protected areas department.

The head of the Natural Resources Protection and Management Department Talantbek Turdumatov notes that systematic work on the conservation and reproduction of wildlife, protection of

hunting grounds, and fighting the offenders of environmental legislation has been carried out on the territory of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park and adjacent territories since 2014.

"One of the components of environment protection is education. We conducted training and delivered lectures to the staff of state nature parks and non-staff inspectors. We taught them how to document environmental offences, to prosecute, to count the number of wild mountain ungulates using GPS devices

and spotting scopes, as well as safety rules for hunting in the mountains. We also delivered awareness raising talks with local residents and shepherds about what is a nature park, how to behave in the park, how to protect nature, and develop ecotourism," said Talantbek Turdumatov.

Specialists note that thanks to the UNDP - GEF Project, civil servants and local communities joined efforts to conserve wild animals.

ISSYK-KUL RESIDENTS PROTECTING THE WILDLIFE

WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT THE KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK NOT ONLY THE PARK'S STAFF, BUT LOCAL RESIDENTS ALSO PROTECT THE WILDLIFE. THE KHAN TENIRI PA AND ADJACENT TERRITORIES ARE HOME TO RARE ANIMALS AND RARE PLANTS, WHILE ILLEGAL HUNTING AND POACHING THREATEN THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY OF THE CENTRAL TIAN SHAN.

In 2014, a group of non-staff wildlife protection inspectors was established from among the local residents of remote villages of Ak Suu and Jety Oguz districts. The group is headed

by Beyshenbek Tyumenbaev, a specialist of Issyk-Kul Division, the Department of Natural Resources Protection and Management, the State Agency for Environment Protection

and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Nine activists from among the local residents got together into an anti-poaching team and have been helping state authorities to fight environmental offenders in the mountains of the Central Tian Shan.

"The anti-poaching team under my command goes on the raid every month, in summer - twice a month. The raid lasts at least 5 days. During this time we go around the park territory and document offences. This is a very effective method because poaching has gone down significantly since the anti-poaching team started work. In addition, we do



awareness raising work among local communities, we explain to people why they must not break the law and destroy our nature. People now have better understanding, they started helping us, and they inform us about poaching facts,” Beyshenbek Tyumenbaev said.

A training workshop was held for anti-poachers where they learned about legal aspects of regulation of natural resources management, control and supervision in the area of nature protection, recommendations for combating illegal hunting and safety rules during nature conservation activities in the mountains. The Department of Natural Resources Protection and Management, SAEPF, awarded certificates to members of the anti-poaching team.

In 2014, as a result of the first raid, 12 violations of the hunting rules, poaching and destruction of the flora were identified with the estimated damage of KGS 101,729.

Nurjamal Satylkanova, a member of the anti-poaching team and Ak Shyrak Village Council, believes that the permanent presence of non-staff inspectors at the village level will enable the state environment protection authorities to respond to offences effectively and timely.

“Local residents have better knowledge of the local environment and see things that are out of the sight of the controlling bodies. It is physically very difficult for rangers to constantly patrol their territories. In their absence, local residents

continue to watch visiting hunters, but we do not have the authority to check whether they are hunting legally, whether there have hunting permits. I am confident that as an anti-poaching team member I can help the rangers identify offences. I hope to contribute to the protection of animals and plants that live and grow on my native land,” said Nurjamal Satylkanova.

The UNDP - GEF project provided an anti-poaching team with uniforms (winter and summer uniforms), as well as cameras, binoculars, GPS, and portable radio sets to support the effectiveness of their work.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KHAN TENIRI STATE NATURE PARK

IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

With the creation of the Khan Teniri State Nature Park in Ak Suu district, Issyk Kul province, local residents have an opportunity to start their own business that does not damage biodiversity and the environment.



Photo: UNDP

To reduce the negative impact on the flora and fauna and increase the communities' access to alternative sources of income that do not damage the nature, the UNDP - GEF Project designed and is currently implementing the Alternative Sources of Income Program.

Seven village municipalities of Ak Suu district are participating in this program. In total, 34 proposals

were submitted, of them 16 project proposals were approved in the amount of USD 139,000.

The project proposals were assessed in two stages. At the initiative of local communities and decision-makers, a village coordination committee was established. A commission of 5 to 7 people, depending on the number of residents in village municipalities, assessed project proposals: whether they meet the village priorities and the Program criteria. In the first stage, project proposals were assessed at the village administration level. In the second stage, project proposals were assessed by the Commission comprising representatives of Ak Suu district administration, the Plenipotentiary representative office of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in Issyk-Kul province, research organizations, NGOs, business sector and the UNDP.

A resident of Teploklyuchenka village in Ak Suu district Nurlan Asanbayev is a participant of the Program. The 31-year-old man received a USD 10,000 grant for implementation of the Environment Protection and Ecotourism Development Project.

“The idea of an ecotourism development project was born long time ago. Hiking in the Issyk-Kul mountains is becoming increasingly popular, especially among foreign tourists. Members of the local youth organization “Ak



Photo: UNDP



Photo: UNDP

Suu Youth Solidarity”, which I lead, submitted a grant application to the UNDP - GEF Project. We received a small grant and last October started implementing the project. Currently, we are working on the technical preparation of our center, we are renovating the building. Actually, when we had a meeting with the village youth, they raised the issue of youth employment in tourism. Because in summer a lot of young people of Ak Suu district work in travel agencies in other villages as a guide, driver and interpreter. About 50 people will work in our center. Our tourist services start at Manas airport, where we will meet the tourists, drive them here and show the best and most beautiful places, and take them back to the airport,” said Nurlan Asanbayev.

Young people named their tourist center after the Khan Teniri State Nature Park, and they hope that with the establishment of the park the issue of biodiversity conservation in the area will be resolved.

A resident of Ak Bulun village Jenishbek Bayaliyev has been engaged in agriculture for many

years. When he learned about the Program, he decided to make an application for an agricultural project, and won a micro-capital grant of USD 10,000 to set up a greenhouse and a poultry farm.

“We run a greenhouse business. Currently, we are growing cucumbers. In the future we also plan to grow tomatoes. We installed the greenhouse on our own, and where necessary we consulted with professionals. Cucumbers have already blossomed, and we will soon get the first harvest. In writing the project proposal, we aimed at income generation and jobs creation. At the moment we have 4 employees working in two shifts. They, as expected, receive a monthly salary. The poultry farm was also built with the support of the UNDP - GEF Project. Currently, there are 500 laying hens producing over 500 eggs daily,” said Jenishbek Bayaliyev.

He noted that he fully supported the idea of creating the Khan Teniri State Nature Park for two reasons: it protects the wildlife in Issyk-Kul region and creates jobs for local people. Both points are

very important for residents of Ak Suu district.

A resident of Kerege Tash village municipality Zamirbek Otunbayev always wanted to engage in fruit processing but did not have enough money to purchase equipment. Within the framework of the Program, he received a micro-capital grant of KGS 653,000 to buy the equipment.

“We learned about the grant competition at Kerege Tash village administration. We were informed that a certain amount of money is allocated to each village for implementation of biodiversity friendly projects. We immediately remembered that our fruits remain mostly unrealized every season. We are very pleased that now we can both dry our fruits and get natural juice. We have been looking forward to this for a long time and could not believe until last minute that someday we will have such equipment. We decided to support the local school and the kindergarten – once a week we donate juice to the children,” said Zamir.

He and his employees have many other plans. In the future they want to pick and process barberries and open a milk processing enterprise.

NORMATIVE LEGAL DOCUMENTS DRAFTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNDP-GEF PROJECT

Under the «Improving the Coverage and Management of Protected Areas in the Central Tian Shan Mountains» UNDP - GEF, project a number of normative legal acts have been drafted – proposed amendments to the Law on Protected Areas.

REGULATIONS ON THE RED BOOK OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The document was approved by the KR Government in April 2016. It regulates the structure and the content of the Red Book and establishes the procedure for entering into the Book and removing from it of rare, endangered or threatened species (subspecies, populations) of wild animals, wild plants and fungi that permanently or temporarily inhabit and grow on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

REGULATIONS ON THE TENDER PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING TO LEGAL ENTITIES OF THE HUNTING RIGHTS ON CERTAIN HUNTING AREAS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Regulations establish the tender procedures, the standard form of the Hunting Agreement and the procedure for its conclusion and termination, and reimbursement of the tender related costs of the authorized state agency for hunting. The regulations strengthen the decision-making role of the public and local state administrations and the local self-government's right to participate. It specifies the timeline of various stages of a tender and conclusion of contracts. The tender commission shall not revise its decisions upon the bidders' claims.

REGULATIONS ON THE PROCEDURE FOR THE USE OF LANDS OF STATE NATURE PARKS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The document is drafted in accordance with the law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Specially Protected Nature Areas" and regulates the use of lands of state nature parks of the Kyrgyz Republic. The regulations identify regime parks with certain types of permitted activities. Any activity in the zones shall be carried out in accordance with the Kyrgyz Republic legal requirements in the area of environment, forestry and land regulation.

REGULATIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The document regulates the order of establishment, changes in categories, approval of borders and the liquidation of specially protected nature areas (PA) in the Kyrgyz Republic, defines the categories of nature areas, identifies the initiators of PA establishment, functions of the PA organizers, the grounds for PA creation and liquidation.

REGULATION ON WILDLIFE CORRIDORS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK OF PASS AND REGULATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES, REGIMES AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The Regulations give a definition of the term “wildlife corridor” - migration routes of wild animals. The document specifies the procedure for working in protected areas near wildlife corridors and during the migration of animals, and prescribes authorized and prohibited activities.

The concept of wildlife corridors is also planned to be included in the Law on Specially Protected Areas. The draft law was developed under the UNDP project and is under consideration by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.

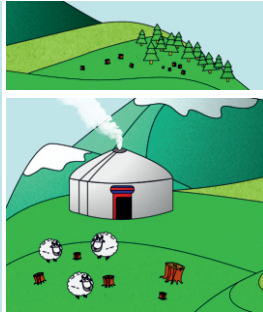
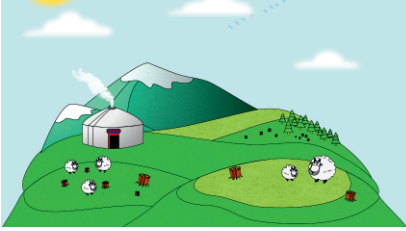
DRAFT PROGRAM FOR ISSYK-KUL ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

The draft Program of Issyk-Kul Environment and Economic System Development includes clusters for tourism development, including ecotourism, and economic development through environmentally friendly activities. The draft program includes a tourism cluster, a ski cluster, a treatment and rehabilitation cluster, as well as the concept of the clusters of fruit and berry, meat and dairy, aqua culture, fish farming, greenhouses, and handicrafts.

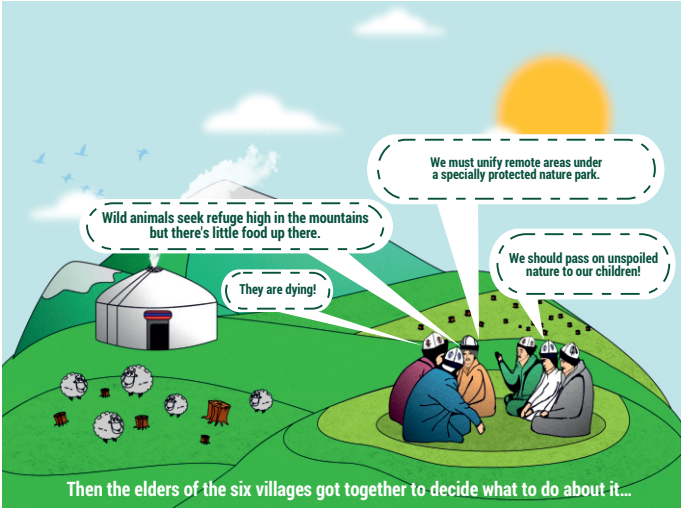
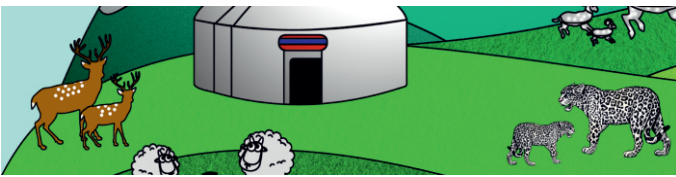
The draft Program was integrated into the Issyk-Kul Province Sustainable Development Strategy for 2015 - 2017.

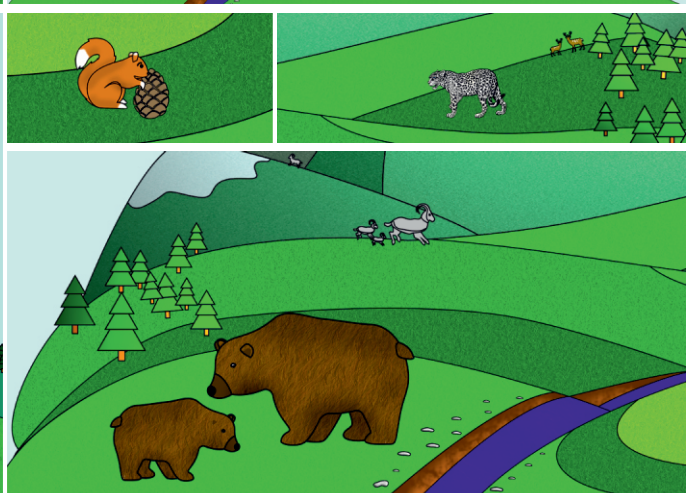
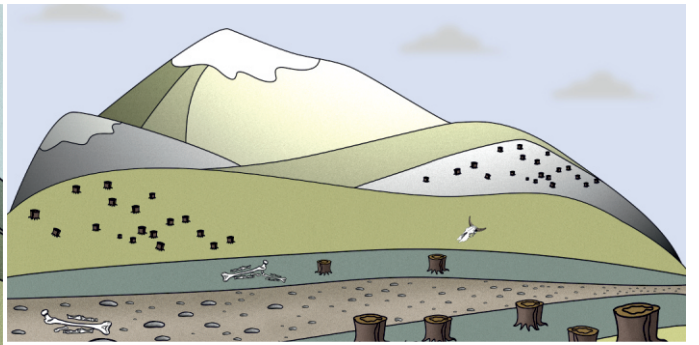
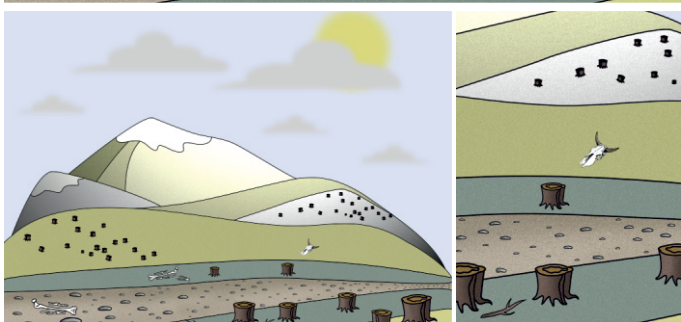


This is a wildlife area but people graze their livestock here and hunt.



Livestock and people disturb wild animals.







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