



## A case from Kyrgyzstan relevant in a broader concept

The agricultural sector is the foundation of the Kyrgyz economy. The sector is dominated by livestock husbandry. In most cases, notably in the rural zones, the population's livelihood depends directly on keeping livestock, that's why pasturelands represent one of the country's most valuable natural resources, but at the same time, one of the issues that still generating multidimensional conflict situations (social, economic, ecologic and even political), notably in the multiethnic settlements (Kyrgyz, Uzbek and Tajik) and bordering regions (between Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan). According to recent studies, more than half of the pasturelands in Kyrgyzstan are degraded because of overgrazing, particularly in areas close to villages. In view of that, the development of pasture management plans based on stakeholders' mobilization is a basis to define alternatives that would improve the situation and avoid irreversible degradation of pastureland resources.



*Pasture area within the State Forest Fund,  
Kadamjay region, South Kyrgyzstan*

## Objective

Develop and introduce a sustainable community-based pasture management through reversing the trend of destructive grazing, using pastures more efficiently, improving fodder production and animal feeding systems and thereby raise the efficiency of animal production and increase the generated income.

## Target Groups

- Pasture users and managers, livestock owners, local communities and ethnic groups.

## Target areas

- Where livestock is the main source for livelihood and where communities have a strong interest to improve their pasture resources and livestock production.
- Where conflicts occur frequently between livestock owners, pasture users and managers, what represent a limitation factor for undertaking joint actions and initiatives aiming at better pasture management and social integration within the rural communities.
- Where pasturelands are overgrazed, underused or facing serious degradations.



## Approach

It is important to involve all stakeholders (users, managers, etc.) and take into consideration key factors that affect the condition of pasturelands and influence these factors to restrict degradation. Accordingly, the applied approach is based on a coherent sequence of participatory appraisal and complementary activities, with particular focus on four main components, i.e.: household/community level, pastureland vegetation cover, livestock issue and pasture/land use conflicts.



## Activities

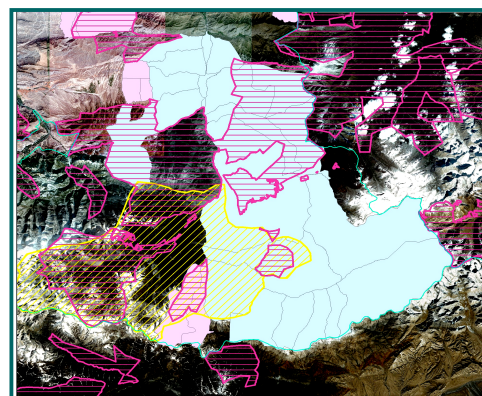
- **Household/community level:** analysis and description of the existing situation, needs, interests and challenges facing pastureland/livestock management, including clarification and resolution of conflicts related to land use and social organization (ethnic issues). This pass through effective community mobilization and information on how to use and diversify pasture/livestock activities for multipurpose socioeconomic and environmental advantages, and thereby, highlight opportunities and alternatives which could improve the situation.



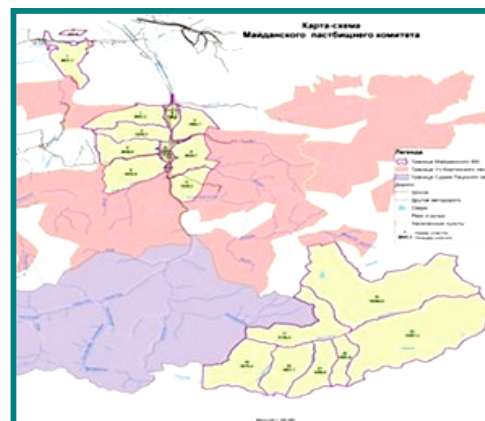
- **Pastureland vegetation cover:** Develop a system for vegetation mapping and statistics to assess pastureland resources and their carrying capacity. This is based on a classification system for vegetation that is relevant for livestock production and operational for mapping in the field.



- **Mapping activities:** Along with the classification system for vegetation, develop a methodology for practical and efficient vegetation mapping, using field measurements and introducing appropriate GIS and satellite remote sensing techniques. Maps are developed to show the present and the planned land/pasture use and grazing plans in the concerned areas and illustrate possible conflicts related to pasture management, including conflicts associated with groups of users or ethnic groups.



*Mapping activities in Maydan pilot zone South Kyrgyzstan*



- **Livestock issue:** the purpose is to assess how different systems of grazing on different vegetation types, during different seasons, have influence on animal health and thereby the quantity and the quality of related products (wool, meat, dairy products, etc.).

## Trainings

Trainings on capacity building activities on pasture/livestock related subjects for the benefit of the local farmers, herders, shepherds, communities, village councils and other interested groups.



*Training on mapping, Markaz pilot zone, South Kyrgyzstan*



*Training session on veterinary issues, Naryn region, East Kyrgyzstan*

The topics cover notably productive use of pastures, mapping guidelines, grazing and fodder base management, animal health and feeding, techniques to mobilize human and financial resources to improve pasture/livestock management in the rural communities.

## Outcomes

- Clarification and description of the overall strategy for pastureland use in the concerned areas.
- Elaboration of status report and illustration (*mapping*) of pasture/livestock management. This includes identification and systematization of the existing conflicts related to land use practices, social organization, economic concerns and environmental impacts; needs assessment; description and illustration of interactions between vegetation cover and grazing activities; assessment and indication of the carrying capacity of pasturelands in the targeted areas.
- Elaboration of community-based pasture management and grazing plans illustrating updated strategy for the use of pastureland/livestock resources in the concerned areas, agreed by all concerned stakeholders (pasture managers, users and livestock owners).
- Capacity building and awareness rising of pasture managers, users and livestock owners.

## References/Ongoing projects

The Forest and Environment Sector Program-Involving of private sector in management of natural resources in Kyrgyzstan. See also [www.nfg.no](http://www.nfg.no)

### Contact persons:



Kuban Matraimov  
[k.matraimov@mail.ru](mailto:k.matraimov@mail.ru)



Kamel chorfi  
[chorfi\\_kamel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chorfi_kamel@yahoo.co.uk)



Emil Ibraev  
[ibraev.emil@bk.ru](mailto:ibraev.emil@bk.ru)

#### **NFG Norwegian Forestry Group**

P.O. Box 123 Lilleaker  
N-0216 Oslo Norway

Phone: + 47 22 51 89 80

Fax: + 47 22 51 89 10

E-mail: [nfg@norskog.no](mailto:nfg@norskog.no)

Web: [www.nfg.no](http://www.nfg.no)