

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study <i>(should be concise and within approximately 25 words)</i>			
Traditional knowledge for climate resilience: Collaborative strategies to mitigate vulnerability and enhance adaptation of pastoralism to climate change			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
"Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy (ISDS)" Public Fund			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Cholpon Pasture Users Union (non-member)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Anara Alymkulova, ISDS Urmat Omurbekov, Cholpon Pasture Users Union Nazira Community Development/Capacity Building Practitioner			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords <i>(3-5 key concepts included in the case study)</i>			
<p>(1) The given initiative integrated the practice of community-based conservation concept by involving local people/pasture users in decision-making around pasture/natural resources management. Collaborative strategies of pasture conservation were developed and piloted in the targeted area by using traditional knowledge with long-term effect to improve the well-being of pasture users, while preserving and improving the condition of land resources.</p> <p>(2) Community Climate Change Adaptation Center has been established to revive traditional systems and climate adaptation strategies by Participatory Rural Appraisal approach to map traditional knowledge and practices reducing the vulnerability of the local community to the effects of climate change, reveal the available tools of collective solutions for climate change, and pasture management.</p> <p>(3) Degraded landscapes and ecosystems of pastures in the targeted area, along with their sustainable management, restored to ensure a continued provision of ecosystem services.</p>			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		3 June 2019	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>		http://www.isds.kg/ (our web-site is currently under reconstruction, will be available starting from July 2019, our FB page https://www.facebook.com/ISDSFund/)	

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")</i>									
Kyrgyz Republic									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
It is located in the north of Kyrgyzstan in Inner Tien Shan Mountains in Kochkor district of Naryn province.									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
42.04929° N, 74.98168° E									
Ecosystem(s) <i>(please place an "x" in all appropriate boxes)</i>									
Forest	x	Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			

Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area
Cholpon rural municipality ¹ is located in the north of Kyrgyzstan on 1900-4000 m above sea level. The total area of the territory is 52,928 hectares, of which 49,386 hectares are pastures. The total population is 8,723 people. The total number of households is 1,624. This is a mountainous area with a very fragile natural environment, with average winter temperature -15 °C and in summer +25 °C. Pastures are mainly desert and semi-desert. As a result of excessive grazing, local pastures are severely degraded, which leads to a deterioration of ecosystem. Majority of the local residents are engaged in cattle breeding and exploit the pastures for grazing. Due to poorly developed infrastructure and limited opportunities for employment, cattle breeding became the only source of income for local families that resulted in irrational use and overload of ecosystem for the last decade.
Description of human-nature interactions in the area (<i>land-use, traditional resource management practices etc</i>)
The local population viewed pastures as an inexhaustible resource and forgot traditional methods of nomadic movement and remained in the same place all seasons, which didn't allow the pasture plants to recover, which finally led to the degradation of pastures. Particularly alarming is the condition of the village pastures located around villages with an area of 9,500 hectares. These pastures are subject to excessive grazing, constantly trampled by road. In addition, pastures are strongly affected by climate change factors, so in recent years, the number of snow and rainfall has decreased, which has led to aridity of the soil, which affected the growth of pasture plants.

Contents

Status (<i>“ongoing” or “completed”</i>)	Ongoing	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	December 2015 till now
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
During the last 20 years, over 50% of pasturelands in the country became degraded and depleted. Increase in number of livestock and unsystematic grazing resulted in deterioration of grass, and destruction of soil and its fertility. Local herders almost forgot traditional knowledge and traditional pasture management, and harmed biodiversity and challenged unique mountain landscapes.			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
The main objective of Cholpon community initiatives (2015-2019) is to empower local community members to increase their resilience and adaptation to climate change through revival and preservation of traditional pastoralism practices and collaborative strategies to mitigate vulnerability of ecosystems in Cholpon rural municipality.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of traditional knowledge and practices into community-based pasture conservation; • Interaction of all stakeholders to enhance the adaptive potential of the local population, including youth, to climate change by creation and development of the Community Climate Adaptation Center; • Reviving intergenerational connections and passing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and ancient pastoralist culture to young generation of Cholpon municipality (young herders and local schools children). 			
Results			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local pastoralists started using traditional knowledge and practices inherited from their ancestors to sustainably maintain their livelihoods and improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change. • Biodiversity values/community-based range lands conservation issues included in local development plans in targeted areas of Naryn and Chuy provinces, particularly, 5-year plans of pasture/range lands use of rural municipalities. 			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Rural Appraisal approach to map traditional knowledge and practices reducing the vulnerability of the local community to the effects of climate change, reveal available tools of collective solutions for climate change, and pasture management • Holistic approach/complimentary types of activities (trainings for herders, PRAs with participation of villagers, Community Celebrations, information campaigns about importance of revival of traditional knowledge of pasture management, place-based education for local school children) are crucial for success 			

¹ Rural municipality or Ayil (village) aimak is an administrative-territorial unit consisting of one or several villages, in which the local community exercises local self-government in the manner established by the Constitution and laws of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Key messages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional knowledge/practices reduce the vulnerability of the local community to the effects of climate change • Local communities and pastoralists consider the balance between scientific approach and traditional nature management and pasture ecosystem • Traditional methods of nomadic movement (instead of remaining in the same place all season) will support plants recovering
Relationship to other IPSI activities <i>(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)</i>
n/a
Funding <i>(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)</i>
The project was implemented within ‘Small initiatives Support for Biocultural Promotion in the Northern and Inner Tien-Shan’ Program with funding of The Christensen Fund

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●	■	■	■	■	●	●	■	■
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	■

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

●	●	●	■	●	■	■	●	■
●	●	■	●	●	●	■	■	■