

## **In Central Asia**

### **New pasture law**

In January 2009, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan adopted a new Pasture Law that radically changed the pasture management system in the country. According to the new law the responsibility on pastures management was transferred to local pasture users.

The adoption of this new pasture law followed a grass root initiative supported by an intensive lobbying process of NGOs and other organizations, engaged in mountain rural development. Under the support of Public Fund CAMP Alatau project 'Sustainable pasture management' funded by GTZ-CCD, pasture committees were established in three pilot territorial self-government areas at watershed level of Jergetal and Ottuk rivers in northern Kyrgyzstan. CAMP Alatau provides technical and consultative support to these new community based pasture management institutions to develop and implement the first independent local pasture use plan at local level.

In Kyrgyzstan pastures cover up to 90 % of agricultural lands and efficient pasture management is crucial for livestock development that is one of the main income sources for rural communities.

### **Activities of The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities.**

The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA) is the association of 41 member-legal entities, community based organizations that are called Territorial Public Self-Governances (TPSes) that aim at contributing to sustainable development in mountain regions of Central Asia. Established in 2003 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as a successor of the Central Asian Mountain Partnership Program funded by the Swiss Foundation of Development and Cooperation, the AGOCA facilitates exchange of experience and information through conveying the community voice to the global fora.

Since its establishment AGOCA has conducted a number of projects in three countries of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) on energy efficiency and production of fuel-efficient stoves. These projects are being appraised highly by the local population and received the government endorsement for wider application.

The AGOCA helped the mountain communities to conduct participatory and community based assessments for their natural resource state for addressing the root causes of resource depletion and degradation. It also links up the remote mountain communities to donor funded projects and programs so the projects could reach the end-users.