



# SUSTAINING MOUNTAINOUS FOREST AND LAND RESOURCES UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE IN KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyz forests face severe degradation as a result of overharvesting for fuelwood and housing construction, overgrazing on forest lands, population growth and a lack of financial resources for forest management. A further threat to the sector is climate change, a factor that will define the future state of mountain ecosystems and increase environmental pressures on sensitive habitats. The aim of the project was to enhance the enabling environment in the forestry and agricultural sectors and to contribute to the sustainable management and enhanced productivity of mountainous agrosilvopastoral ecosystems and improved mountain livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project addressed shortcomings in the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the sustainable management of forest, land and water resources in Kyrgyzstan's mountains, and the unsustainable use of natural resources by enhancing sustainable forest and land management (SFM/SLM) and by introducing new best practices to the country's mountainous conditions through pilot demonstrations. Under the project, forest plantations were created and the natural renewal of forests was promoted. Training was provided in the application of normative legal acts on the protection of forests and forestry enterprises, and innovative agricultural practices were introduced to pilot ayil aimaks through farmer field schools (FFS) and demonstration plots. A draft 2030 Programme and Action Plan for regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon sequestration in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector was developed, as well as digital maps of the national carbon monitoring system.

## IMPACT

The project introduced new agricultural and forestry approaches to communities with a high incidence of poverty. The success of the project was made possible by a focused approach that directly contributed to increased income generation and better livelihoods, and that did not require high levels of investment. A beneficiary from Osh oblast commented: "I have worked with many different projects, but I would like to highlight that the FAO project really woke up our farmers. People started to take unproductive land plots on lease. Now there is a high demand for such lands. It is all because of sweet almonds that were introduced in our area by FAO. Almonds turned to be a perfect fit for our climate and soils, and they can give a decent income to people."

## KEY FACTS

### Latest Approved Budget

USD 5 454 545

### Duration

August 2014 – May 2021

### Resource Partner

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

### Partners

State Agency for Environment and Forest Protection (SAEPF), Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Land Improvement (MoA)

### Beneficiaries

Eight pilot forest districts, local farmers, and 19 ayil aimaks in 12 districts of Jalal-Abad, Osh, Chui, Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts



# ACTIVITIES

- An analysis made of all regulations related to land resources management and cross-sectoral interaction between state and local self-government in the land-use sector.
- Land-use plans developed for pilot rural municipalities.
- Guidelines for participatory management and their application by resource user groups developed.
- The establishment of a national Forest Management Information System supported.
- Carbon content increased by 15 percent through the improved management of 20 000 ha of forest land.
- Agrochemical surveys conducted of soils on 35 942 ha of irrigated lands and recommendations made for their rehabilitation.
- A digital land-use map and a draft Programme on the Regulation of Emissions and the Removals of GHG in the Forestry and other Land-use Sector 2030 developed.
- Innovative agricultural practices introduced through establishment of 200 demonstration plots and 176 FFS at which 2 500 farmers were trained.
- 9 180 ha of forest land afforested or reforested.
- Geobotanical studies produced as the basis for pasture management.
- Nursery areas established for rangeland grasses and wild grasses planted in degraded pastures to improve their productivity.
- An analysis conducted of regulations governing environmental education in the Kyrgyz Republic, and its results and recommendations provided to national authorities.
- 360 employees of relevant governmental structures and farmers of local communities trained in the implementation of forest, agricultural policy and legislation in accordance with the SFM/SLM principles.
- Training provided to 30 university students of agronomy and forestry.



## Project Code

FAO: GCP/KYR/010/GFF

Donor: 4761

## Project Title

Sustainable Management of Mountainous Forest and Land Resources Under Climate Change Conditions

## Contact

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Partnerships and Outreach

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