

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Lake Issyk-Kul		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Fisheries management, Lake ecosystems, Ecosystem degradation, Deforestation		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=122		

Geographical Information

Country	Kyrgyzstan		Location(s)	Issyk-Kul Province					
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	https://www.google.com/maps/@42.3763581,76.9231526,9z								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Lake Issyk-Kul is rich in natural resources and biodiversity, with a number of areas under protection, although over the last 50 years, the ecosystem has suffered significantly through tree felling and inappropriate uprooting and burning of thickets. The population is mostly employed in the tourism and agriculture sectors. Livestock production is a critical aspect of the local farm economy, and many people are also involved in fishing activities.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transition to a private property system, much of the land was abandoned and withdrawn from economic use. The condition of pastures in the lake's coastal zone has deteriorated through uncontrolled grazing, which has led to replacement of valuable forage grasses with prickly and poisonous plants. For this reason, large areas of formerly productive land in the target area are unused. The agricultural sector relies heavily on chemicals, polluting the lake. Additionally, fish farming has resulted in predatory fish species migrating into the lake.									

Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
Experts estimate that the degradation of some ecosystems has reached a critical stage, and without urgent protection and restoration measures, this environmental degradation may become irreversible in the near future. Regaining use of this land as a productive landscape once again will require a number of measures, while it is necessary to protect and restore natural ecosystems adjacent to the productive land areas.			
Objectives			
Restoration of degraded landscapes and coastal ecosystems, along with their sustainable management; Sustainable agricultural practices implemented across the landscape, and the adoption of eco-innovative technologies; Livelihood and wellbeing sustained and enhanced in line with local traditions and cultures; Strengthened institutional capacity to integrate conservation and production in management.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Conserving biodiversity through micro-reserves and policy coordination; Enhancing the performance of protected areas in lakeside and mountain habitats; Demonstrating drip irrigation, endemic fruit trees, and other sustainable agricultural practices; Restoring endemic fish populations; Supplying sustainable livelihood alternatives; Creating and promoting an ecotourism infrastructure; Disseminating educational materials and lessons learned; Affecting policy at the national level.			
Results			

Significant steps to preserve local threatened plant and animal species; Improved functioning of local protected areas; Demonstration zones for drip irrigation established; Social enterprises started by local communities to restore populations of endemic fish; Cultivation of waterweed for cattle feed; development of local ecotourism; Student manual called “Learning from Nature” made available to schools; Direct effects on national policy	
Lessons learned	
The landscape strategy is only possible with strong multi-stakeholder partnerships; A specialized electronic mailing system proved useful in dissemination of news and information; Cross-project activities are effective; If projects align with efforts already underway in the government, it can increase their policy influence; Cooperation with scientific institutions is important; Innovation in technology was key in many project results	
Key messages	
The planning and implementation process brought together a wide range of government officials, local civil society groups, and business associations, creating a solid foundation for future collaboration in landscape governance. The programme has also been active in disseminating its work to government officials so that it can affect governance policy throughout the Lake region and beyond.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 480,001.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Kyrgyzstan.

Contributions to Global Agendas

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

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

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>)

●	●		■			●	●	●
		●			●			