

**COMMUNITY-BASED PASTURE CONSERVATION: A CASE OF KYRGYZSTAN**

**Anara Alymkulova,**

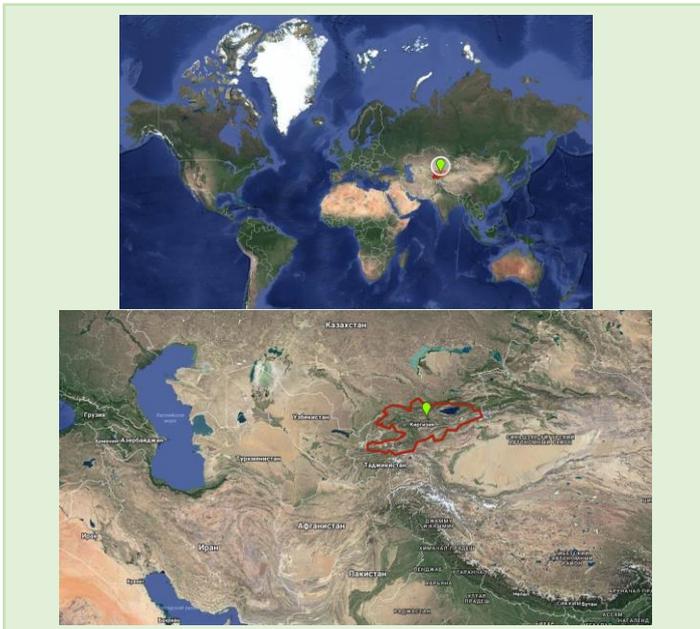
Executive Director of “Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy” Public Fund

Anara holds Master of Social Work with concentration on Community & Organizational practice from Michigan State University. She has over 18 years of experience in community-oriented programs focusing on capacity building, outreach, and empowerment around social/biocultural issues.

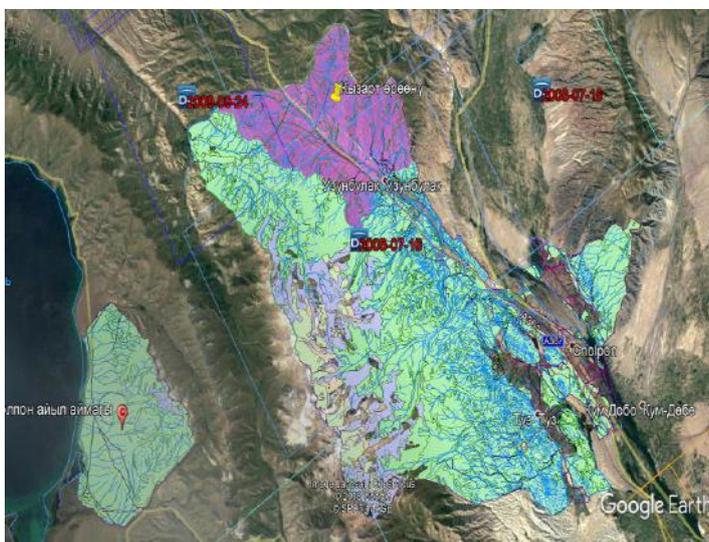
anaraal@gmail.com



**Geographic and demographic information**



|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Country                          | Kyrgyzstan   |
| Province                         | Naryn province   |
| District                         | Kochkor  |
| Size of geographical area        | 45,200 km <sup>2</sup>   |
| Number of indirect beneficiaries | 34 822 persons<br>(Men: 17690 persons)<br>(Women: 17132 persons) |
| Dominant ethnicity               | Kyrgyz   |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| Size of project area                            | 52,928 km <sup>2</sup>  |
| Number of direct beneficiaries                  | 8,723 persons<br>(Men: 4,432 persons)<br>(Women: 4,291 persons) |
| Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude) | 42.04929° N,<br>74.98168° E                                     |
| Dominant ethnicity                              | Kyrgyz  |

## Ecosystem Types

|   |         |   |           |   |              |  |                  |
|---|---------|---|-----------|---|--------------|--|------------------|
| X | Forest  | X | Grassland | X | Agricultural |  | In-land water    |
|   | Coastal | X | Dryland   | X | Mountain     |  | Urban/peri-urban |

## Important species in the site

| English common name<br>( <i>Local name</i> ) | Scientific name       | Description   |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Sheep ( <i>koi</i> )                         | <i>Ovis aries</i>     | Sheep farming is the ancient leading branch of agriculture in Kyrgyzstan. This is due to the peculiar natural and economic conditions associated with the mountain character of the relief. The presence of huge areas of mountain pastures led to the development of sheep breeding. Sheep are bred in all climatic zones of the republic. Sheep breeding in high mountain regions is one of the leading branches, which is the main source of income for the villagers. |
| Cow ( <i>ui</i> )                            | <i>Bos taurus</i>     | Cows are bred almost in all regions, in the suburban zone - in the dairy sector, and in the mountain areas - meat. Livestock products are widely used as raw materials in the processing industry and as a food product in fresh form.  |
| Horse ( <i>at</i> )                          | <i>Equus caballus</i> | Kyrgyz horses are small hardy animals, coping well with harsh climate and terrain conditions.   |
| Yak (topoz or kotos)                         | <i>Bos grunniens</i>  | Semiwild herbivores, common in the highlands of Kyrgyzstan (Naryn, Issyk-Kul and Osh provinces). Yaks live at an altitude of 2000 to more than 6,500 meters at sea level. No other species of animals (horses, sheep) can compare with yaks for a full-fledged use of high-mountain pastures.   |



## General introduction

The Cholpon rural municipality is located in the northern part of Kyrgyzstan (on the territory of Kochkor district of Naryn province). The total area of the municipality is 52,928 hectares, of which natural pastures make up 49,386 hectares. The total population (2017) is 8,723 people. The main part of the farmland of the territory is made up of natural pastures. The main part of the farmland of Cholpon rural municipality territory is made up of natural pastures.

Most pastures are clogged and prone to erosion. Particularly alarming is the condition of the village pastures located around villages with an area of 9,200 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. The local population views pastures as an inexhaustible resource, not using traditional methods, the culture of using pastures and modern zoo technical methods, which led to the degradation of pastures. The pastoralists do not use traditional methods of nomadic movement and remain in the same place all season, which does not allow the pasture plants to recover.

The main objective is to empower local communities to increase their resilience and adaptation to climate change through revival and preservation of traditional pastoralism practices in Cholpon rural municipality. Introduction of community-based pasture conservation based on traditional knowledge and practices, interaction of all stakeholders to enhance the adaptive potential of the local population, including youth, to climate change by creation and development of Community Climate Adaptation Center.

## Working Group A

### Activities employed

- Creation of Community Climate Change Adaptation Center was created in the Cholpon municipality to revive indigenous and 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;
- Conducting inventory and documenting the cattle and pastures to develop pasture management and conservation strategy and introduce it into practice;
- Revival of traditional knowledge and customs of nomadic migration to remote pastures and conservation of pastures by combination of modern methods of pasture management and traditional practices;
- Community campaigns and public meetings to systematize traditional knowledge and **popularize** it among other pastoral committees in the region;
- Integration of climate monitoring system based on the best practices of traditional pastoralism.
- Reviving of 9000 hectares of the Kyzart pasture near the village by reviving the traditional practice of conservation of pastures.
- Reviving of intergenerational connections and passing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and ancient pastoralist culture to young generation of Cholpon municipality (young herders and local schools children).



Caption: ISDS Archive



Caption: ISDS Archive

**Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets’ Strategic Goal A**

|                         |                 | <b>Breakdown Target</b>   | <b>How did you measure the outcome?</b>   | <b>Result</b>   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Strategic Goal A</b> | <b>TARGET 1</b> | People are aware of the values of biodiversity  | <p>We used both qualitative and quantitative indicators such as a number of people participated at community/village meetings. Several community meetings on a village and municipality level were conducted using participatory approach.</p> <p>Approximately, 50% of total population took part at the meetings in 7 villages of Cholpon municipality. (about 4,500 villagers). Seven local schools of the municipality were involved in the project activities, over 100 school students were informed about values of biodiversity. Qualitative indicators – changes in behavior of villagers and their role and support of values of biodiversity, incl. careful attitude to lands/pastures by using traditional knowledge. Measurement – observation of changes in behavior and attitudes.</p> | <p>Over 4,500 villagers are informed about values of biodiversity, particularly about importance of revival of rangelands/pastures based on indigenous/traditional knowledge and practices. Over 100 school children learned more about local history, documented local legends and myths, now they become more concerned about pastures, wild and domesticated animals, have a sense of place in relationships with nature, with the past and elder generations. A number of informational materials were produced and disseminated among local villagers and other pasture users associations around the country. Local pastoralists started using the knowledge and practices inherited from the experiences of their ancestors to sustainably maintain their livelihoods and improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p> |
|                         |                 | People are aware of the steps they can take to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity            | <p>Direct work with local schools mostly located in the remote rural areas, creation and maintenance of biocultural/ecological centers opened in schools (biodiversity values included in the school programs). Intergenerational transmission of biodiversity values/traditional knowledge from elders/custodians to younger generations. Capacity building of pasture users/herders/farmers on innovative and traditional methods of husbandry</p>  | <p>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.</p>  |
|                         | <b>TARGET 2</b> | Biodiversity values integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies | <p>Awareness raising among a National Government, local stakeholders about degradation issues of pastures through participation of our organization in National Coordination Council of National Pasture Users Association "Kyrgyz Jaiyty"; Capacity building of pasture users/herders on a district and municipal level on innovative and traditional methods of pasture use.</p>  | <p>Pasture degradation issues are taken into account by the national and local government and included in the local development plans in the targeted areas</p>   |
|                         |                 | Biodiversity values integrated into national and local planning processes                           | -   |   |

Working Group A

|          |  |   |  |
|----------|--|---|--|
|          | Biodiversity values incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate  |   |  |
|          | Biodiversity values incorporated into reporting systems  |   |  |
| TARGET 3 | Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts                |   |  |
|          | Positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity developed and applied   | - |  |
| TARGET 4 | Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve, or have implemented, plans for sustainable production and consumption... |   |  |
|          | ... and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits   |   |  |

### Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

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>)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ■ | ■ | ■ |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| ■ |   | ● | ● | ● | ● | ■ | ● |  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |

### Any difficulties you found during your assessment

It was difficult to measure of how biodiversity values are integrated in national plans as my organization is working mostly on a grass root level.

### Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

IPSI should have a special orientation program for building capacity of new members on SEPLS model to expand it around the world.