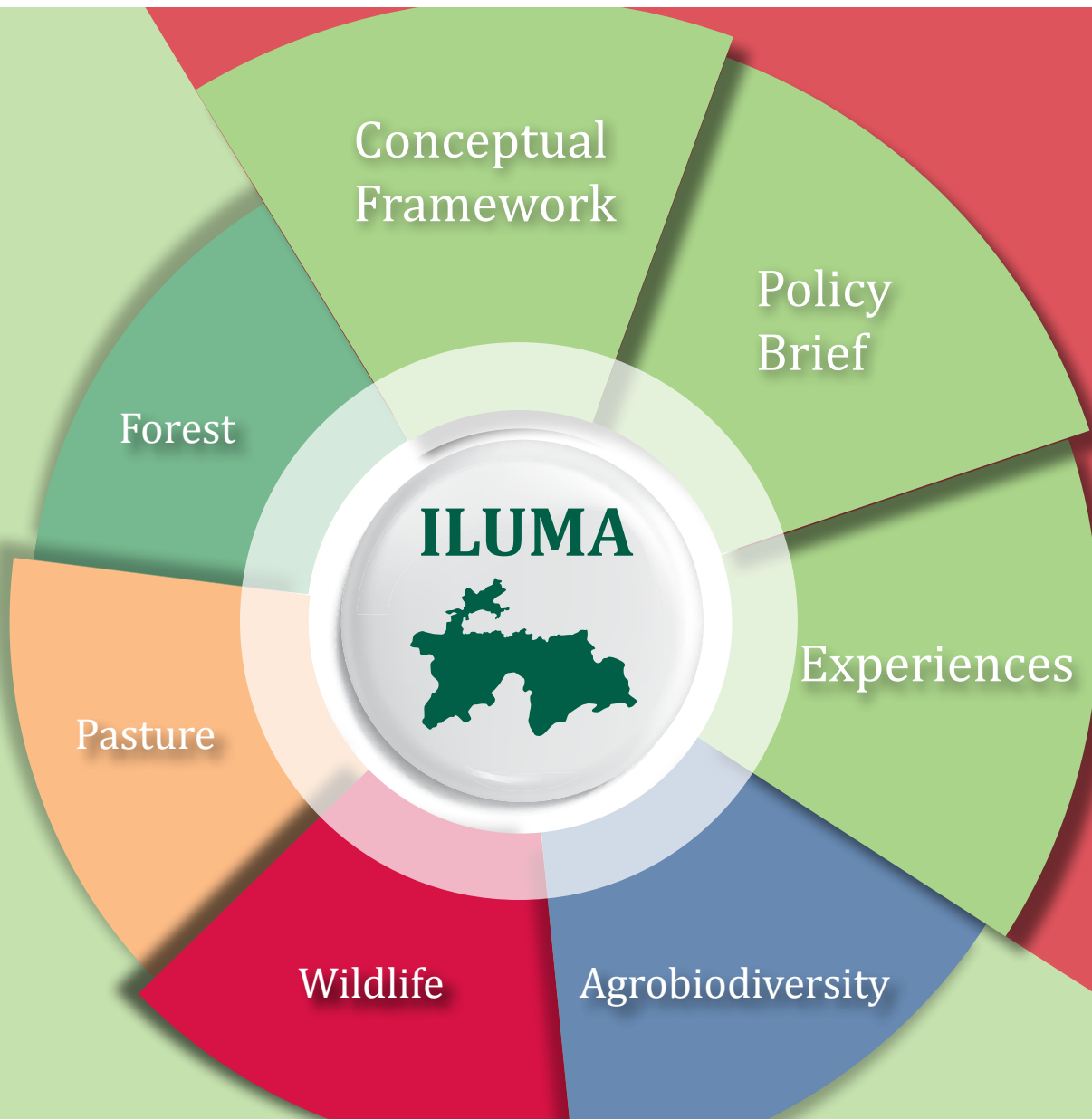


Wildlife in Tajikistan for Integrative Land Use Management Approaches (ILUMA)



Wildlife

Sustainable Management of Wildlife in Tajikistan

1. What is this land use practice about?







About 90 percent of the territory of Tajikistan is mountainous and almost 25 percent of the country has the status of a protected area. The diverse and rare wildlife species of the mountainous region are its most valuable resources as well as an integral part of the mountainous ecosystem. All wildlife is owned and managed by the state. However, due to budgetary constraints, funding of the protected areas and implementation of wildlife protection laws are rather weak. Wild animals, particularly wild sheep (argali *Ovis ammon* and urial *Ovis vignei*) and wild goats (ibex *Capra sibirica* and markhor *Capra falconeri heptneri*) are hunted for subsistence, commerce and sport. The international hunting of mountain ungulates provides significant revenues for the state budget. At the local level, the population of the remote and mountainous areas rely upon subsistence farming, such as livestock keeping, for sustaining their livelihoods. The wildlife is a source of food and income for household; in certain areas, it is the only option to survive.

Since independence and the subsequent Civil War in 1992-1997, poaching has been widespread. A key driver of the phenomenon has been a high level of food insecurity coupled with the wide availability of fire arms. Fossil fuel and electricity shortages have also forced people to cut trees and shrubs for fuelwood. Such uncontrolled logging has had a negative impact on the wildlife habitat. Unemployment and limited sources of alternative income has made hunting a profitable revenue source, covering not only daily costs of living and providing food, but also covering costs for important family events such as weddings. Illegal and unsustainable hunting has led to a drastic reduction of wildlife populations in numbers and distribution areas. Nevertheless, prohibiting the local population from hunting the wild animals around them has not proven to be the right solution to combating poaching – on the contrary, it has distanced them from legal activities even further.












2. Cornerstones of the wildlife management

Sustainably-managed wildlife resources with the participation of direct users, i.e. local communities, and close cooperation with state authorities and the scientific community is one of the 'cornerstones' of wildlife management. This approach can establish a management model that ensures the conservation of wild animals and their sustainable use. The Community Based Wildlife Management approach (CBWM) piloted and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation) in Tajikistan during 2008-2014 was based upon the principles of sustainable wildlife management and has been among our more successful land use experiences. Two important success factors of CBWM are long terms rights for the concessions as well as the protentional to bring the communities a minimum economic benefit to sustain their livelihoods. Sustainable wildlife management can be a source of money to pay for people's basic needs, invest in wildlife conservation measures and contribute to the enhancement of local infrastructure. Hunting of wildlife is allowed through issuing of permits exclusively in an assigned area, and only by the organisation that manages the area. The added value of the CBWM approach is the capacity development on technical and management skills for the responsible governmental institutions and the local user groups. Support is also provided to update the relevant legal framework based upon the lessons learnt from testing the management models and identifying the challenges to be tackled and opportunities to harness. This will ensure political support, better decision-making and long-term sustainability of the measures for wildlife conservation and sustainable management.

Cornerstone 1: Community-Based Wildlife Management

<p>GIZ Experience in Implementation</p>	<p>Community-based wildlife management is aimed at conservation and sustainable management of wild animals through the participation of local communities and the private sector in the management of hunting grounds.</p> <p>Reference material:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Factsheet: Sustainable Management of Wildlife in Central Asia.</p> <p>The Current Situation of Wildlife Management in Central Asia.</p> <p>Practitioner's Guidebook: How to Run a Wildlife Management Organisation and Conduct Trophy Hunts for International Clients: EN, TJK</p>	
<p>Key Elements of the Experience</p>	<p>Guiding principles and the way how they are related to ILUMA dimensions</p>	
<p>Identification of potential and existing opportunities for establishing Community-Based Wildlife Management.</p>		<p>Counter adverse negative impacts brought about by illegal and unsustainable hunting of ungulates as a source for food and revenue. Ensure sufficient forage for ungulates despite an increasing livestock population. Avoid livestock overgrazing and habitat degradation. Protect targeted wildlife species: Argali Sheep Ovis ammon, Markhor Capra falconeri heptneri, Severtsov Argali Ovis ammon severtsovi, Siberian Ibex Capra sibirica, Snow Leopard Panthera uncia Urial Ovis vignei.</p>
		<p>Ensure sufficient economic benefits and opportunities for the local population in rural areas.</p>
<p>Community mobilisation and awareness-raising</p>		<p>Technical advice and training on population surveys, management planning and provision of services to tourists and trophy hunters.</p>
		<p>Collaborate directly with traditional hunters, state-authorized bodies (e.g. Forestry Agency) and protected nature areas department, scientific-research institutions, private conservancies¹ and hunting concessions.</p>
		<p>Provide basic equipment (uniforms, field and optical equipment).</p>
		<p>Facilitate involvement and empowerment of traditional hunters and other interested community members (monitoring, tourism services, etc.).</p>

1 Conservancies – an area of wildlife habitat that is owned and managed by families or associations of local village hunters.

Allocation of concession		Ensure development of institutional structures, as well as provide support in assigning hunting areas via technical consultation. Develop management plans for sustainable wildlife management.
		Conduct field assessments to identify the population status of target species and their distribution areas. Identify exact borders, fewer access routes to the hunting ground, and abundant resources within the defined territory to feed the wildlife.
		Specify hunting models and areas based upon commitments of local users. Carefully select traditional community hunters.
		Assess hunting user rights to the model hunting area. Ensure active stakeholder engagement and political dialogue. Support improving regulatory and legal frameworks (e.g. revision and adoption of the law 'On Hunting') based upon best practices and lessons-learned.
		Designate reproduction zones with full party restrictions of human activities.
Signing a contract , thereby assigning long-term rights and responsibilities to users on specific areas.		Ensure fair allocation of land use rights for managing wild animals in a specific hunting ground for a period of 10 years.
		Ensure distribution of benefits based upon a 30/70 scheme, of which 30 percent is used for the community development and 70 percent for conservation and wildlife management.
Capacity building to develop technical and managerial skills for sustainably managing the wildlife, monitoring the population, tackling poaching, etc.		Conduct trainings of state and non-state local partners in the principles of sustainable management of hunting grounds and the wildlife. Develop skills in monitoring and rehabilitation of animals.
Income-generating practices through the establishment of benefit-sharing mechanisms, thereby providing opportunities for generating income from non-extractive (eco-tourism, trekking) and extractive (hunting tourism) use of wildlife species.		Ensure communities receive benefits from hunting and tourism (e.g. guided hikes, wildlife photography, game viewing), such that wildlife conservation positively impacts the development of rural communities. Include costs of wildlife management, and rewards for participating traditional hunters, as well as provide support the socio-economic development of communities. Attract international hunters and tourists (e.g. through communication over a website, social medias, etc.).
Planning and monitoring to ensure sustainable management based upon appropriate planning and monitoring tools.		Develop management plans for 5 - 10 years together with the groups that regulate protection, monitoring and hunting. Develop annual work plans and include information on the type of activities planned, timing for execution, and expected results. Ensure preparation of an annual report by the relevant authority based upon the annual work plan.
		Develop guidelines for monitoring mountain ungulate populations. Conduct annual surveys for data collection. Establish a GIS database for appropriate planning of the surveys and storing and analysing survey results. Ensure a good database that supports decision-making and enhances supervision over the hunting activities at local and national levels.

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