

International Conference Economics of Land Degradation in Central Asia

November 28-29, 2016

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

BACKGROUND

Land degradation and desertification in Central Asia are a pressing issue, which represent not only a threat to the diverse regional ecosystems, but also severely affect human wellbeing and economic development. Recent studies have estimated the annual cost of land degradation in the region to be about **6 billion USD**, often caused by inadequate land management.

The regional project on the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) in Central Asia was initiated in 2014 jointly by the UNCCD, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the GIZ Regional Programme for Sustainable and Climate Sensitive Land Use for Economic Development in Central Asia with the aim to highlight the economic benefits of addressing this challenge. It has progressed with the evaluation of key options to increase revenues from sustainable land management (SLM) while avoiding further degradation.

The conference will be used to further discuss the findings and recommendations from the research that will help countries comply with their commitments to *inter alia*, the Sustainable Development Goals, National Actions Plans to Combat Desertification, INDCs and ecosystem plans for adaptation to climate change. Countries can use the recommendations as evidence-based information that can be adapted to their planning frameworks.

OBJECTIVE

The overarching objective of the conference is to consider the ELD results in relation to on-going plans and frameworks to achieve greater synergies between the commitments of the central Asian countries to the UN environmental conventions (climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification). SLM practices as assessed in the different ELD studies can contribute to livelihood enhancement and more sustainable production systems given a better enabling environment that includes policies and new institutional arrangements. Based on the consensus among regional political leaders, cooperation can ensure that concerted support to international agendas can be interlinked to realizing the benefits of SLM from farms to landscapes.

OUTCOME

Agreed document on feasible options and suggestions for the development of enabling environments

PARTICIPANTS

- Government representatives, policy-makers, decision-takers from the Central Asian region
- Parliament
- International organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Academia
- Media

AGENDA – DAY 1
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Monday, 28 November 2016

Time	Title	Speaker/Moderator, Institution	
09.00–09.30	Registration		
09.30–09.45	Introduction Welcome and Opening Speech	Philipp Reichmut Zhanybek Kerimaliev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture	
09.45–10.10	The ELD regional project: Assessing the benefits of land management through the ELD jigsaw approach	Richard Thomas	
09.45–10.10	Agenda Setting	Philipp Reichmut	
10.15 – 11.15	Thematic study presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highland pastures (20 min) • Foothill pastures (20 min) • Wetlands (20 min) 	ELD country experts Rahat Sabyrbekov Rahmon Shukurov Niels Thevs	
11.15–11.45	Coffee/tea break		
11.45–13.00	Thematic study presentation (cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests (20 min) • Lowland pastures (20 min) • Irrigated Agriculture (20 min) 	ELD country experts Sabit Baizakov Nariman Nishanov Umid Nazarkulov	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break		
14.00 – 15.30	WORLD CAFÉ: On the way forward within the respective countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we move forward from the presented alternative land use options? • What are relevant policy options? 	GIZ Country coordinators & ELD country experts (Claudia Haller, Niels Thevs, Nariman Nishanov, Saltanat Asan)	
15.40 – 16.00	Coffee break/GROUP PHOTO		
16.00 - 17.20	Panel discussion: Relevant political frameworks		
	Green Economy Daniyar Imanaliev	SDGs Kanykey Orozbaeva	Climate Change André Fabian
17.20 – 17.30	Wrapping up the day	Richard Thomas	

AGENDA – Day 2
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ECONOMICS OF LAND DEGRADATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Tuesday, 29 November 2016				
Time	Title			Presenter/Facilitator
08.30–09.00	Welcome Coffee			
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome and Agenda Setting			Philipp Reichmut
09.10 – 10.45	Presentations: key ELD Study Results			Emmanuelle Quillerou ELD country experts (Sabit Baizakov, Rahat Sabyrbekov, Rakhmon Shukariv, Nariman Nishanov, Umid Nazarkulov)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Study (30 min) • National Studies (country level): (10 min each) Kyrgyzstan Kazakhstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan Uzbekistan			
10.45–11.00	Coffee/tea break			
11.0 -11.15	Moderated sessions on Thematic Discussions Short introductions (3 min each)			
11.15 – 12.00	Land Degradation Neutrality and ELD findings	ELD and Green economy	Sustainable Land Management and ELD	Ecosystem based Adaptation and ELD
	Zhanybek Kerimaliev/ Kanat Sultanaliev	Daniyar Imanaliev/ Azamat Dyikanbaev	Malik Bekenov	Andre Fabian / Claudia Haller (GIZ)
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch break			
13.00 – 15.30	Moderated sessions on Thematic Discussions (cont.)			Continued
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break			
16.00 – 16.30	Presentation of Key messages from Thematic Discussions:			Group Moderators
16.30 - 16.50	Resolution and Overall Reflection			Philipp Reichmut
16.50 – 17.00	Closing remarks			Richard Thomas
17.00	Closing			