

RESOLUTION

of the regional conference on “Biodiversity Protection In the Transboundary Region "Northern Tien Shan Mountains"

October 21-22, 2013 – Bishkek

We, participants of the regional conference on “Biodiversity Protection in the Transboundary Region “Northern Tien Shan Mountains”, welcome the NABU initiative for implementing the project “Biodiversity Protection in the Transboundary Region “Northern Tien Shan Mountains”, aimed at the establishment of integrated management system for the protected areas in the region, with due regard to interests of local communities.

Nature knows no boundaries. Mountain ecosystems of Central Asia are especially vulnerable to human impact. In the mean time it is hard to overestimate the role of ecosystems and protected areas which save them, they contribute to climate stabilization and economy development by means of ecotourism, save biological and genetic diversity, as well as habitats of rare animals and plants, and provide people with essential ecosystem services.

Preservation of the unique biological diversity of the Northern Tien Shan requires the joint efforts of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan at the level of state, scientific and public organizations, reinforced with active participation of local communities and various social groups, as well as international organizations.

We acknowledge the fact that, despite the efforts exerted by states, international and public organizations, biological diversity protection still faces a wide range of problems and complications which claim attention and require efforts in order to be solved:

- Protected areas of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, being conservation matrices of unique natural systems of the Tien Shan, possess neither management and monitoring potential nor state funding that would be sufficient for performing their missions;
- Economic value of the ecosystem services does not find its reflection in macroeconomic parameters of the national economies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan;
- Countries’ announced strategies aimed at ecotourism development in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan often do not have sufficient financial and management support from the states. As practice shows, actions aimed at nature conservation, biodiversity protection and sustainable environmental management have a weak competitive potential in the public financing matters due to the fact that their economic and social values had been understudied;

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- Current legislation and its application do not provide real unity of the specially protected natural areas;
 - Effectiveness of the existing management systems of the specially protected areas in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan needs to be improved with regard to the international obligations undertaken by the countries.

We consider it necessary to fulfill the following measures, aimed at biological diversity protection in the region:

- For state bodies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: to consider a possibility of including the Northern Tien Shan Mountains to “Xinjiang Tien Shan” nomination, being a part of UNESCO World Heritage List from China;
- To estimate the perspectives of including “Eastern Tien Shan” nomination to UNESCO World Heritage List in the capacity of a transboundary object of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (Northern, Central and Inner Tien Shan) and to determine the exact geographical name for this territory;
- To conduct correspondence analysis of the SPNA of the region in question (Northern, Central and Inner Tien Shan) to the categories worked out by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- To consider a possibility of founding of additional SPNA (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan around Khan Tengri), of the respective IUCN categories I and II;
- For SAEPF and NAS of the KR: to consider a possibility of founding of a biosphere territory “Chong-Kemin” in the basin of the river of the same name;
- To initiate cooperation agreement between China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan regarding management of the transboundary SPNA and sustainable tourism development;
- For CFH MEP of the RK and other competent state bodies of Kazakhstan: to participate in the process of decision making regarding “Kok-Zhailau” ski resort construction in the territory of Ile-Alatau State national park in order to resist illegal tampering with the national park’s lands; to stand against of the withdrawing and reserving of the national park’s lands, as well as of reconsideration of the existing zoning of the park, planned by developers and building owners;
- To consider a possibility of nominating Ile-Alatau State national park, Almaty State nature preserve, Almaty State nature reserve and State national nature park “Kolsai Kolderi” under “The Man and the Biosphere” (MAB) programme;
- To initiate introduction by authorized state bodies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan of a simplified pass control and organization of border crossing points on Ozerniy mountain pass (Zailiyskiy Alatau range) and Sarybulak mountain pass (Kungey Alatau

range), which will make it possible to restore and actively use the tourist routes from Almaty city to lake Issyk Kul;

- To recommend the state bodies in charge of decision making in the Kyrgyz Republic to grant the SPNA status to the areas in the Kyrgyz part of the Kungey Alatau mountains (Northern Tien Shan), which are located in the vicinity of “Kolsai Kolderi” national park (Republic of Kazakhstan), with the aim of protecting wildlife from poaching;

- To introduce up-to-date instruments for improving wildlife monitoring (including trail cameras, GPS, distanced zoning), to build up and support information systems and data bases for collecting of the acquired information, along with providing reliable data protection;

- To build electronic platforms (such as web-sites, blogs, etc.), designed for discussing problems, perspectives of development of SPNA in the Northern Tien Shan, as well as for promoting SPNA’s projects for potential sponsors;

- To take into consideration the economic value of specially protected natural areas in national, regional and territorial strategies and development programmes;

- To develop legal and economic tools of ecosystem service control, including of their price into national accounts;

- To conduct social and economic research aimed at implementation of financial models of ecosystem services;

- Participation of local community in SPNA management should be based on principles of equality of both sides, rights and obligations of the both sides must be utterly distinct. Correct organization of local community participation and its informational awareness in planning and SPNA management will minimize social conflicts of interests and improve effectiveness of SPNA management;

- to implement programmes and projects, aimed at advanced training and raising of qualification of SPNA employees;

- to consider and support the local initiatives concerned with biodiversity protection, encourage local communities to participate in the making of ecologically important decisions;

- Mechanisms of involving local population in biodiversity protection matters should be based on local traditional ecological knowledge of biodiversity protection and sustainable environmental management;

- To consider a possibility of founding of a trust fund that would function under the principles of GEF and with the aim of regional development funding and ecological tourism support.

Regarding the Strategy of sustainable tourism development in the Northern Tien Shan:

- To considerably increase funding for SPNA with simultaneous obliging SPNA to use a part of tourism revenue for infrastructure development and land improving, based on international standards, as well as to make this process as transparent as possible. To stimulate support of SPNA by public (member) organizations;
- To provide legal regulation in the field of ecotourism (introduction of clearly defined and consistent terminology, affirmation of the principles, based on international experience, regulation of rules of ecotourism activities implementation for SPNA and tour operators);
- To account for introduction of economic cooperation mechanisms for local public authorities, SPNA, tour operators and local community in the sphere of development and realization of tourist product. That having been said, local community's interests and preservation of their traditional lifestyle should be given a priority and have to be considered as one of the key elements of tourist attractiveness;
- To account for compliance of tourism planning with local government and public authorities, as well as their correspondence and connection to regional programmes;
- To refuse (especially in SPNA) from unsustainable tourism projects, inflicting irreparable harm to biodiversity, to toughen responsibility and tighten inspection of the non-purpose use of SPNA.

Education for sustainable development and environmental friendliness

- To make efforts to develop and support projects, concerned with holding of informational campaigns for various target groups on the subject of sustainable development and environmental friendliness;
- To develop and use methods of assessment of ecosystem status and permissible ecosystem load, with the use of value indicators of ecosystem services, nature capacity evaluation for biodiversity conservation as the main factor of sustainable tourism development;
- To improve, accept and introduce the following methods: 1. assessment of recreational load on nature potential; 2. monitoring of SPNA's flora and fauna based on new technologies; 3. evaluation of the economic damage caused by biodiversity loss. The above mentioned methods are subject to further improvement;
- To confirm at the level of laws and regulation and then use the existing "Methodology of normative standards of permissible load on ecological routes in SPNA", which had been elaborated by the initiative of the Committee for forestry and hunting of the

Republic of Kazakhstan, in the project on biodiversity protection in the transboundary region “Northern Tien Shan Mountains” in the capacity of a pilot methodology.

Marketing of the tourism product “Northern Tien Shan Mountains”

- To conduct a complex marketing analysis of tourist service markets (international, regional and local ones) of the Northern Tien Shan from commercial, socio-economic and ecological points of view.
- To develop a conception of presenting information about ecological tourism and ecotourism products in concordance with CIS traditions (building positive associations on the basis of sociological polls);
- To provide integration of ecotourism products to the sales system of classical tourism market, by means of web-services and popular web-sites, informational campaigns, mass media.