

PROJECT INFORMATION

Development of a management plan for the Great Altay Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Updated: November 2016



Participatory project workshop
in Manzherok (Altai Republic)

Source: Pierre L. Ibisch

Background

The Altai Mountains in the border region of Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China are one of the most diverse and most pristine ecoregions of the world. However, the region is exposed to threats like climate change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and the expansion of tourism. For more than 15 years the four countries have focused on the idea of a stronger transboundary cooperation in the field of nature conservation and sustainable development. An especially advanced cooperation exists between the State Nature Biosphere Zapovednik "Katunskiy" (Russia) and the State National Park "Katon-Karagaiskiy" (Kazakhstan).

Project details

German and dutch experts offered consultancy and assistance to the two protected area administrations in the development of a joint strategic management plan as well as in the preparation of the application for the official nomination of the transboundary biosphere reserve by UNESCO. By using an adaptive and participatory planning and management approach (i.e.: MARISCO) they made sure that the transboundary territory management will be able to effectively adress current and future challenges and requirements. By doing so, it follows the requirements outlined in modern conservation concepts such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNESCO Programme "Man and Biosphere" (MAB). The management plan comprises ten strategies which focus on the establishment of effective management structures and mechanisms. Furthermore, it addresses also research and protection of ecosystems and natural resources as well as a sustainable social and economic development of the border region.

Target country/region: Russian Federation, Republic of Kazakhstan
Duration: 09/2012 – 09/2015
Beneficiaries: Administrations of the State Nature Biosphere Zapovednik "Katunskiy" (Russian Federation) and of the State National Park "Katon-Karagaiskiy" (Republic of Kazakhstan), responsible regional and national ministries and governmental authorities

Implementing organisations: Centre for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, WWF Netherlands, BTE Tourism and Regional Coaching (Berlin)
Project number: 21943

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

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