

Final Report

Friends of Tusheti Protected Areas
“Scheme of Traditional Grazing System
near Chigho and Introduction of Land
Use Regulations to Tushetian
Shepherds”
August -November 2011

Reported by Nino Beladidze, the Project Director



The project had two objectives:

1. To improve the ecological condition of Protected Areas of Tusheti with the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources by the local shepherds.
2. To inform the shepherds about pasture use issues with the purpose of improving the pasture conditions.

To achieve its goals the project made the following steps:

On August 1, Anzor Gogotidze, the director of Tusheti Protected Areas and Nino Beladidze, the director of Friends of Tusheti Protected Areas met with the shepherds in village Chigho. During the meeting, shepherds discussed the current status of pastures and their attitude towards this problem.

On August 5, director of Friends of Tusheti Protected Areas met with Giorgi Ghambashidze, the expert, assessing the status of pastures and signed the service contract.

Assessment of Pastures in Village Chigho

On August 15, Giorgi Ghambashidze, the expert, with Lasha Khizanishvili, the resource specialist of Tusheti Protected Areas went to village Chigho to assess the pastures and design the plan for pasture rotation. (**appendix #1**).

On August 25 Giorgi Ghambashidze returned from village Chigho and with National Park Director and Friends of Tusheti Protected Areas Director discussed the conditions of memorandum of understanding that would be formed between the National Park, Friend of Tusheti Protected Areas and shepherds from village Chigho. The memorandum of understanding was signed on November 8, 2011. The memorandum specifies that the shepherds in village Chigho have to follow the conditions pasture rotation scheme and Administration of Tusheti Protected Areas will monitor that process. (**appendix #2**).



On September 8 was organized the meeting with Giorgi Ghambashidze and were discussed the topics of the brochure.

Training for shepherds

On September 2 the project director met with Gela Shashiashvili, the lawyer who would lead the training in legal issues about leasing. They together discussed and finalized the training topics.

On October 14, there was held the training for shepherds in legal issues at the Administration Centre of Qvemo Alvani.

The training was attended by ten shepherds; due to their nomadic life, it is always difficult to gather all shepherds on a certain day for training.

During the training, the trainer (who is the professional lawyer) spoke about the taxation issues. Mainly, the problematic issues were related to leasing, deadlines of payment and penalties. After the training, the trainer answered the questions of shepherds.

According to the discussed topics and interest of shepherds, the lawyer modified a brochure about the legal issues of pasture leasing.

Taking into consideration the fact that most of the shepherds could not attend the meeting, brochures with legal advices will be distributed to others as well. There will be indicated the lawyer's phone number in brochure and shepherds can call or visit him and get free consultations.

Those shepherds, who attended the meeting, expressed their gratitude saying that the topics discussed at the training were very useful for their work.

Brochure about grazing in village Chigho

(appendix #3)

Brochure about leasing issues

(appendix #4)

The project has the following outputs:

1. Established grazing scheme;
2. Brochure about the grazing scheme and its importance;
3. Signed memorandum of understanding between Tusheti Protected Areas and shepherds from Chigho about sustainable use of pasture;
4. Increased understanding of shepherds in legal issues in pasture leasing;
5. Brochure for livestock owners about the pasture leasing issues;