

On behalf of:

Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany

## Project information

### The expansion potential of the protected area network in the Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul



Winter at the  
badlands "Kara-Kel",  
south of Issyk-Kul in  
Kyrgyzstan

Source: BIOM



Updated: Mai 2014

## Background

Kyrgyzstan's unique natural landscapes, its history as an extraordinary tourism destination and its rich cultural traditions predestine the country for the establishment of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. As model regions for sustainable development, biosphere reserves are regions in which human interactions go along with the preservation of the cultural and ecological heritage.

With 20 % of the state territory, the Kyrgyz UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul covers an area reaching from the beaches of the so called "hot lake" Issyk-Kul, along arid steppes and High Mountain pastures up to the glaciers and the 7,000m peaks of the Tian Shan Mountains.

The broad diversity of the landscapes challenges a sustainable development of the Biosphere Reserve. Therefore the administration cooperates with the provincial administration (Akim) on equal level.

At national level the Agency of Environment and Forests holds the responsibility for the biosphere reserves of Kyrgyzstan. It had requested expert advice on the current conditions in the protected area to stimulate its extension.

**Target country/region:**

Kyrgyzstan

**Duration:**

01/10/2013 – 12/05/2014

**Beneficiary:**

Administration of Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul, State Agency of Environment and Forests, Governor of Issyk-Kul Province, NGO BIOM

**Implementing organisations:**  
Michael Succow Foundation for the Protection of Nature

**Project number:**

28939

## Project

Advice is given by a desk-study, completed by German and Kyrgyz Experts who are familiar with the conditions in the area around Issyk Kul. The study provides a technical basis with recommendations for the further development of the Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul according to the Seville Strategy.

Recipients of the study are the Biosphere Reserve administration, the Kyrgyz National Agency for Environment and Forests. As project partner, the non-governmental organisation BIOM contributed to the study and will use it for further lobby-work.

One focus for the development of the document was to develop recommendations for a better ecological protection of the arid coast area of the south-western Issyk-Kul lake (near Kara-Koo village).

For the preparation of the study the authors conducted interviews with the Biosphere Reserve administration, collected data during fieldwork and analyzed available literature. Discussions with experts unfolded the current state of affairs and built the basis for further recommendations. The most important recommendation is to enlarge the protected areas of Issyk Kul Lake, which secures the natural succession of devastated ecosystems, without principally eliminating the (partly touristic) anthropogenic use.

In this way the study introduces the concept of the “wildlife matrix zone”, resp. “mini zapovedniks”. The concept foresees micro reserves that combine nature conservation targets with the needs of local communities.

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Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (AAP)

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