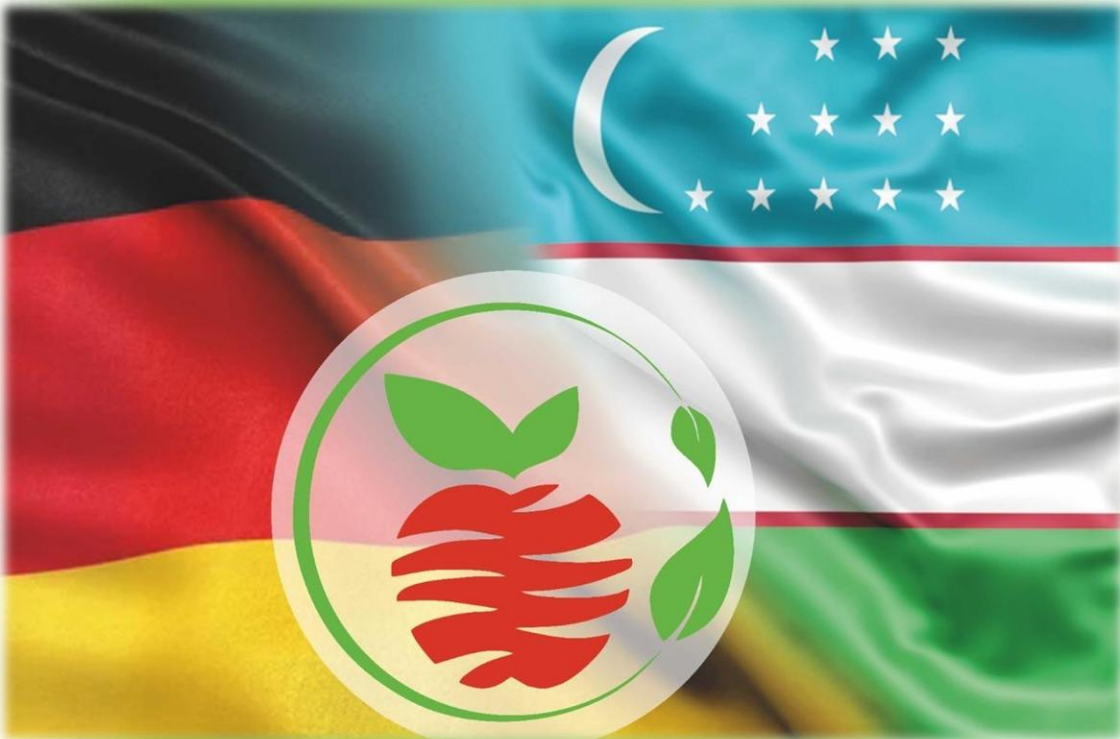




INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR

**“PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN – POTENTIAL FOR
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE REPUBLIC
OF UZBEKISTAN”**

19.05.2025 - NUKUS

Venue: Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Editors: Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult.
Matthias Kramer

Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reymov

The speakers themselves are solely responsible
for the content of their CVs and abstracts

Nukus, May 2025

**Professional impulse and objectives of the conference by
Prof. (ret). Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer**

The Central Asian region has a unique diversity of fauna and flora. Preserving this wealth of ecosystems and biodiversity for future generations requires increased national and international efforts. If this does not succeed, the biodiversity integrity will be exceeded in the near future and the rate of species extinction will increase exponentially.

The conference is intended to provide impetus for the prospective establishment of institute in Nukus and is therefore to be viewed as necessary preparations for a future institutional partnership. The specialist conference also involve laying the groundwork for joint research and innovation activities aimed at establishing sustainable international knowledge and innovation networks. The results could potentially include the following research and teaching perspectives:

- Development of research projects between German and Uzbek universities on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The projects can be both scientifically motivated, e. g. from the natural sciences from the perspective of genetic diversity in Central Asia, but also interdisciplinary, e. g. ecologically oriented, taking ecosystems and ecosystem services into account, as well as economically in the context of developing regional value chains;
- Development of teaching projects between German and Uzbek universities: Expanding existing teaching concepts and curricula to include aspects of the ecosystem relevance of preserving genetic diversity and, in general, biodiversity in the regions under consideration. Development of disciplinary and interdisciplinary case studies with a systems science focus, as well as the inter-connected effects between economics, ecology, and social issues;
- Design, coordination, and management of a database to link current and future disciplinary studies on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the respective cooperation country, with the aim of providing all interested parties with access to a systematic overview of ongoing projects, networks, stakeholders, etc., in order to avoid duplication and overlapping work and increase the efficiency of measures to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Coordination of scientific publications and high-profile reporting;
- Organisation of specialist conferences, biodiversity and ecosystem services days and Excursions.

The participants of this conference aim to make contributions to research, practice and society through the development of innovative projects that can contribute to reducing ecosystem and biodiversity loss in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Asian region. The necessary international transfer of knowledge is substantiated by a cooperative relationship between Uzbekistan and Germany. In order to give the planned joint activities a formal working basis and visible charisma, representatives from German and Uzbek Universities, academies of science and research institutions decide to establish an Uzbek-German Institute for the Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Central Asian region.

The starting point of the joint institute work is based on the project “Exploratory measures and specialist conferences on the conception and prospective establishment of a Tajik-German and Uzbek-German Institute for the Protection of Biodiversity and Ecosystems in the Republics of Tajikistan (TaGEB) and Uzbekistan (UzGEB) “TaUBE”, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany under the project management of the German Aerospace Center (DLR). In this context, measures for regional value creation to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, qualification measures for students and young scientists as well as communication concepts for society, politics, business and administration are developed.



***Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult.
Matthias Kramer,***
Dresden University of Technology;
NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director

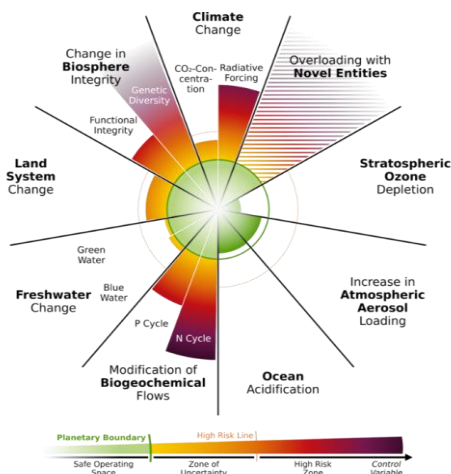
Matthias Kramer was born on January 12, 1959, in Freren, in the former Lingen district of Lower Saxony in Germany. After graduating from the Catholic Leoninum Handrup high school and completing his military service, he began studying business administration at the University of Osnabrück in 1980. He received his doctorate in 1990, followed by various other academic and practical positions, including scientific director of the Systems Research Working Group at the University of Osnabrück and deputy head of the Environmental Research Department at the German Federal Environmental Foundation. In 1995, he accepted a call to a C4 professorship in Business Administration (BWL), with a focus on accounting, at the International University Institute Zittau (IHI), which has been a central scientific institution of the Dresden University of Technology since 2013. Due to changes in the dedication of his professorship, his work from 2002 to 2021 focused on teaching and research at the interfaces between business administration, controlling, and environmental management. Matthias Kramer has defined his academic commitments internationally and interdisciplinary, not only in his volunteer work and as an entrepreneur at NETSCI GmbH (www.netsci.de), which he founded in 2005. As a mandatory component of his intercultural understanding, he has always focused on the languages of the countries in which he has worked on projects. On this basis, numerous publications/textbooks on environmental management and specific disciplines have been published in various languages, including Polish, Czech, Russian and Ukrainian.

In addition to his interest in research-oriented collaboration with partners in Central and Eastern Europe, he has also focused his efforts on Central Asia since 2005. Inspired by his work as Rector of the German-Kazakh University in Almaty in 2008 and 2009, his network now boasts a unique foundation of collaborations in Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. This largely friendly collaboration has led to numerous national and international honors and recognitions, such as the award of the Cavalier Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by the then Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, two honorary doctorates from the Ukrainian universities in Drohobych and Kirovohrad, a honorary professorship at National Agrarian State University in Kazakhstan (Almaty), a honoris causa professorship at National Agrarian State University in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek) and the B.A.U.M. Environmental Award for many years of outstanding scientific achievements. His additional volunteer work was followed by further awards, such as the appointment as Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the St. Marienthal International Meeting Center, the award of the Silver Medal of Honor of the German Caritas Association, and the Paul Harris Fellow Medal of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Matthias Kramer has been retired since 2021 and is therefore no longer in active service at TU Dresden. However, his project and research commitment on topics of biodiversity management and regional value creation, sustainability management in Central Asia, and environmental and nature conservation conflicts in the context of globalization versus regionalization continues, which ultimately led to the creation of this abstract book.

Biodiversity and ecosystem service demands in the Anthropocene era

In 2002, Dutch Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen defined the term "Anthropocene" as a geology of humanity. He believes this new era in Earth's history is a cultural force. Unlike in the previous 4.5 billion years, it is no longer exclusively natural forces that trigger changes in the living environment, but humans. Critics of Crutzen's theory rightly note that the transitions between the individual epochs are fluid and mutually systemically interconnected. The International Commission on Stratigraphy therefore decided in 2024 that human influence on Earth cannot be precisely timed and the Anthropocene cannot be defined, as proposed by Crutzen and the proponents of this theory. However, it is undisputed that humans are increasingly responsible for the fate of the Earth. The effects are already evident in a variety of ways. Using the theory of planetary boundaries, the research group led by Norwegian scientist Rockström has demonstrated that humanity is significantly overexploiting available natural resources. Of key importance is the enormous extent of species extinction and the loss of ecosystem services.



The loss of species not only affects the number of species, but also the genetic diversity. This also deprives nature of a certain ability to adapt, which is particularly important in times of climate change. The objectives of this conference were therefore deliberately defined with these challenges in mind. In this context, it is particularly important to explore the extent to which Uzbek-German cooperation can contribute to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in the Re-

public of Uzbekistan. In order to arrive at concrete proposals in this regard, the technical foundations must first be created. This is done through contributions to the challenges to the bioeconomy, landscape ecology and land-use planning in the age of climate change and biodiversity loss.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 19.05.2025

VENUE: BERDAKH KARAKALPAK STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU) | CH. ABDIROV STR., NUKUS, REPUBLIC OF KARAKALPAKSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, 230112

Welcome and opening of the conference

09:00-09.30

Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reimov, Rector, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Prof. Dr. Shohrux Daliyev Xojakbarovich, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Dr. Michael Wimmer, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Tashkent

Leyli Seitova, Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Karakalpakstan

Rustam Tursynbaevich Saparbayev, Deputy Chairman of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karkalpakstan

Bayrambay Perdebayevich Utemuratov, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Karakalpakstan for Youth Policy, Social Development, Spiritual and Educational Affairs

Technical introduction and main topics of the conference

09:30-09:45

Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer, Dresden University of Technology; NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director

Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Anthropocene

Topic I: Challenges facing the bioeconomy in an era of climate change and biodiversity loss

09:45-10:00	Prof. Dr. Zhanseit Tuimebayev, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Chairman of the Board, Rector	Environmentally oriented higher education as a basis for sustainable development: experience and prospects for international cooperation
10:00-10:15	Prof. h. c. Dr. Ihitiyor Bobojonov, IAMO, Senior Researcher; Head of the VW Chair of International Agricultural Economics at the Tashkent State Agrarian University and Co-coordinator of the Insurance Laboratory at the Tashkent State University of Economics	Impacts of climate change on natural resources and rural livelihoods - potentials and challenges of sustainable land use and climate risk management using the example of Central Asia
10:15-10:30	Prof. Dr. Henryk Flachowsky, Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit, Institute Director	The potential of fruit genetic resources in Central Asia and Uzbekistan for breeding climate-tolerant crops
10:30-10:45	Prof. Dr. Yakub Ametov, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)	Biodiversity and ecosystem services loss in the Republic of Uzbekistan - national challenges and international cooperation needs
10:45-11:00	Prof. Dr. Svetlana Mambetullaeva, Karakalpak Research Institute of Natural Sciences, Director	Biodiversity and ecosystem services research in the Republic of Uzbekistan - potential for cooperation with Germany
11:00-11:15	Dr. Michael Kramer, Acibadem International Medical Center (TIMC) Tashkent, Director	Ecosystem service losses and their impact on human health - using the example of air and water pollutants
11:15-11:45	Coffee break and networking	

Topic 2: Challenges for landscape ecology and land use management within climate change and biodiversity loss

11:45-12:00	Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Feger, Dresden University of Technology, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology, Senior Professor	Impacts of land use and climate change on soil and water-related ecosystem services - requirements for an integrated watershed management for the Republic of Uzbekistan
12:00-12.15	Prof. Dr. Uta Steinhardt, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE), Vice President for Studies and Teaching	Landscape use and nature conservation using the example of organic farming and marketing - potential for the Republic of Uzbekistan
12:15-12.30	Prof. PhD. Amet Habibullaev, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)	Sustainable land use in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and opportunities for international cooperation
12:30-12.45	Prof. Dr. Bibigul Tleumuratova, Karakalpak Research Institute of Natural Sciences	An environmental media analysis of soil, air, and water in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and potential for cooperation with Germany
12:45-13.00	Prof. Dr. Aliya Aktymbayeva, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Dean	Geoecological education as a tool for preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services

Topic 3: Current and prospective cooperation regarding the conference topic between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany

13:00-13:15	Dr. Andreas Schneider, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank, KfW Regional Office Central Asia, Director	Cooperative projects with Uzbekistan on health promotion and sustainability development
13:15-13:30	Bakhytzhon Khabibullayev, International Innovation Centre of the Aral Sea Region at the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Re-	Climate protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan - projects to

public of Uzbekistan (IICAS), Director
(enquired)

strengthen international scientific cooperation

13:30-13:45

Dr. Peter Liebelt, Central Asian Sustainable Innovations Bureau (CASIB), Office Manager

International partnerships for sustainable innovation - cooperation projects with Uzbekistan

13:45-14:10

Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer, Dresden University of Technology; NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director

Regional governance and value creation for biodiversity and ecosystem services in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (ALMA- KiKa) - using the Asian example of 'Malus Sieversii'

Dr. Esbol Omirzhanov, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU, Almaty, Department of International Cooperation, Director

from the perspective of the German Federal Environmental Fund (Kramer);

Dr. Kenzhebai Umetov, Kyrgyz National University KNU, Bishkek, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Director

from the perspective of the Kazakh-German Institute for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - KaGEB (Omirezhanov);

Prof. Dr. Aliya Aktymbaeva, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Dean

from the perspective of the Kyrgyz-German Institute - KyGEB (Umetov);

from the perspective of the Central Asian-German Institute - CaGEB (Akhtymbaeva);

from the perspective of the future Uzbek-German Institute for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Services - UzGEB (Kramer)

Closing remarks

14:10-14:20 Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reymov, Rector, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Prof. Dr. Shohrux Daliyev Xojakbarovich, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Batirbek Kaipbergenov, Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan

14:20 **End of the conference**

14:20-15:30 Lunch break

16.00 – 16.30 Ceremonial opening of the Uzbek-German Institute for the Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – UzGEB

- Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reymov, Rector, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)
- Prof. Dr. Shohrux Daliyev Xojakbarovich, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Batirbek Kaipbergenov, Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan
- Dr. Michael Wimmer, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Tashkent
- Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer, NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director

Signing of cooperation agreements for future collaboration within the Institute

- Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reymov, Rector, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)
- Prof. Dr. Shohrux Daliyev Xojakbarovich, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Batirbek Kaipbergenov, Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Karakalpakstan
- Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer, NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director
- Prof. h. c. Dr. Ihitiyor Bobojonov, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), on behalf of the director, Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Thomas Glauben
- Prof. Dr. Henryk Flachowsky, Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit, Institute Director
- Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Feger, Dresden University of Technology, on behalf of Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology, Senior Professor Research
- Prof. Dr. Uta Steinhart, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE), Vice President for Studies and Teaching

End of the founding ceremony and standing reception by invitation of the Rector of Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Prof. Dr. Akhmed Mambetkarimovich Reymov

Funding institutions of this conference



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



NETSCI

Network for System
Competence and Innovation



Topic I: Challenges to the bioeconomy in the age of climate change and biodiversity loss

Prof. Dr. Zhanseit Tuimebayev, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Chairman of the Board, Rector

Environmentally oriented higher education as a basis for sustainable development: experience and prospects for international cooperation

Prof. h. c. Dr. Ikhtiyor Bobojonov, IAMO, Senior Researcher; Head of the VW Endowed Chair for International Agricultural Economics at the Tashkent State Agrarian University and Co-Coordinator of the Insurance Lab at the Tashkent State Economic University

Impacts of climate change on natural resources and rural livelihoods - potentials and challenges of sustainable land use and climate risk management using the example of Central Asia

Prof. Dr. Henryk Flachowsky, Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Fruit Breeding Research, Director

The potential of fruit genetic resources in Central Asia and Uzbekistan for breeding climate-tolerant crops

Prof. Dr. Yakub Ametov, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Biodiversity and ecosystem services loss in the Republic of Uzbekistan - national challenges and international cooperation needs

Prof. Dr. Svetlana Mambetullaeva, Karakalpak Research Institute for Natural Sciences, Director

Biodiversity and ecosystem services research in the Republic of Uzbekistan - potential for cooperation with Germany

Dr. Michael Kramer, Acibadem International Medical Center (TIMC) Tashkent, Director

Ecosystem service losses and their impact on human health - using the example of air and water pollutants



Prof. Dr. Zhanseit Tuimebayev,
Al- Farabi Kazakh National University
KAZNU Almaty, Chairman of the
Board, Rector

Curriculum Vitae

Zhanseit Tuimebayev was born 8 July 1958, in South Kazakhstan region. He graduated from the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in 1980 with a degree in philology. In 2000, he specialized in law after studying at the Russian State Social University in Moscow.

From 1980 to 1993, he worked as an assistant, senior lecturer, and as associate professor of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. In 1993, he was appointed as first secretary, head of the Department of Management of the Middle and Middle East and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from 1994, Tuimebayev served as second then first secretary of the Kazakh Embassy in Turkey before his appointment as a consultant of the Protocol Service of the President of Kazakhstan while working as consul general of Kazakhstan in Istanbul. In 1999, Tuimebaev became the Chief of Protocol of the President of Kazakhstan and from March 2004, he served as an advisor to President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Zhanseit Tuimebayev is a Kazakh politician who served as deputy chairman of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan from 28 February 2019 to 5 February 2021. Prior to that, he was the Äkim of Turkistan Region from 2016 to 2019. During his tenure, a number of Turkish investors were attracted to the region, which contributed the development of small and medium-sized businesses. In an attempt to attract young skilled workers, two-story residential complexes were built and urban development in the city of Shymkent before it became its own autonomy such as the improvement of the Koshkarata River as well as its banks. A list of historical monuments and holy places of the city and region was compiled, which were converted into tourist sites and more than 10 large industrial production facilities and workplaces were opened. He is a Kazakh ambassador to Albania and Turkey from 2010 after being relieved from the post as Minister of Education and Science. Zhanseit Tuimebayev is currently the rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University since February 2021.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Environmentally oriented higher education as a basis for sustainable development: experience and prospects for international cooperation**

Modern challenges related to climate change and biodiversity loss require a new approach to training specialists in the field of ecology and nature management. The report examines the role of universities in developing environmentally oriented educational programs, integrating scientific research into the educational process, and training specialists capable of solving environmental problems at the global and regional levels. Particular attention is paid to international cooperation in the field of environmental education, including joint educational and research initiatives between the Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi, academic institutions in Central Asia, and partners from Germany.



Prof. h. c. Dr. Ikhtiyor Bobojonov,

IAMO, Senior Researcher; Head of the VW Endowed Chair for Inter-national Agricultural Economics at the Tashkent State Agrarian University and Co-Coordinator of the Insurance Lab at the Tashkent State Economic University

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Ikhtiyor Bobojonov has been a research associate at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) since October 2012, working in the Department of Agricultural Markets. He holds a degree in agricultural economics from the University of Bonn, Germany, and completed his PhD at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), where he focused on modeling crop and water allocation under uncertainty in irrigated agriculture in Uzbekistan.

Dr. Bobojonov is involved in several projects aimed at unlocking the agricultural market potential in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). His research primarily examines how supply chain transformations affect the welfare of agricultural producers. He also investigates the impacts of climate change and explores adaptation strategies in Central Asia and Mongolia.

Especially, he investigates the role of agricultural insurance in agricultural sector development, and analyzes possible options to improve the performance of insurance markets. He is coordinator of the International Agricultural Economics Chair at the Tashkent International Agrarian University and has been awarded the honorary title of Professor by Mamun University in Uzbekistan.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Impacts of climate change on natural resources and rural livelihoods - potentials and challenges of sustainable land use and climate risk management using the example of Central Asia**

Agricultural production is a vital sector for the economies of Central Asian countries. In Tajikistan, for example, agriculture contributes 22.9% to GDP, provides employment for 42.7% of the workforce, and supports a predominantly rural population, with 71.8% living in rural areas. However, climate change-induced production volatility presents significant challenges—not only to rural populations and those employed in agriculture, but also to national food security. The increasing frequency of droughts, rising temperatures, and irregular precipitation patterns have led to substantial agricultural losses across the region. As a result, strengthening the resilience of rural households and agricultural producers is crucial for reducing vulnerability and improving food security.

This study first examines the importance of enhancing household resilience and adaptive capacity, using survey data from 1,500 households across various regions of Tajikistan to assess the relationship between resilience and food security. Productivity and efficiency improvements are widely recognized as key strategies for reducing the vulnerability of agricultural producers. Accordingly, the study also investigates factors influencing the efficiency of Central Asian farmers, with a focus on the role of agricultural extension services. A representative sample of 323 wheat farmers in Uzbekistan was used for this quantitative analysis.

Findings from Tajikistan highlight the critical role of cash and in-kind transfers in boosting household resilience—particularly in the absence of well-developed insurance markets. These transfers often serve as the primary coping mechanism against climate-related risks. There is also a pressing need to expand social protection programs, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and children.

In Uzbekistan, the analysis reveals that irrigated farms demonstrate higher levels of technical efficiency. Conversely, commercial farms are found to be associated with greater inefficiency in wheat production. High land fragmentation complicates farm management and limits mechanization, underscoring the need for cooperative models that can facilitate access to equipment. Extension services—including farmer research groups, field schools, peer learning exchanges, and common interest groups—are shown to have a positive effect on efficiency and present a promising policy tool for promoting inclusive agricultural growth.

In conclusion, improving access to financial services (such as credit and insurance) and strengthening extension services are essential policy priorities for enhancing resilience, increasing efficiency, and ensuring food security across Central Asian countries.



Prof. Dr. Henryk Flachowsky,
Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for
Fruit Breeding Research, Director

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Dr. Henryk Flachowsky completed his studies in sciences at the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) in 1998 with a diploma in Plant Science. After completion of his doctorate at the same university in 2003, he continued his studies on Plant Breeding and Genetics, which led to his habilitation in 2013. Since 2018, he has been appointed as an adjunct professor. Since 2001, he is scientist at the Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops in Dresden-Pillnitz (Germany), which is part of the Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI), the Federal Research Institute for Cultivated Plants in Germany. He has been head of the institute since 2018, and spokesperson of the JKI's department of Plant Genetic Diversity and Breeding Research since 2024. In 2011, he was honored with the International Prize of the Rudolf Hermann Foundation (RHS) for outstanding achievements in viticulture and horticulture research and was co-winner of the Klipstein Science Prize 2023. He is member of the advisory board for Horticulture of the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology and is board member of the European Fruit Research Institutes Network (EUFRIN). He is also member of the advisory board of the German National Fruit Genebank, the German Society for Plant Breeding e.V. (GPZ), the Faculty of Agriculture, Environment and Chemistry at the Dresden University of Applied Sciences (HTW) and the Latvian Institute for Horticulture. For many years, he has been member of the working groups Malus/Pyrus and Prunus of the European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) and has been maintaining close contacts with scientists from many countries who are working on plant genetic resources. His interest and knowledge on plant genetic resources also led him to take part at several expeditions to the Caucasus in 2011, 2012 and 2014, collecting fruit genetic resources.

*Abstract of the Presentation***The potential of fruit genetic resources in Central Asia and Uzbekistan for breeding climate-tolerant crops**

Eating fresh fruit is essential for a healthy diet. The WHO and FAO recommend a daily intake of 400 g of fruit and vegetables. Globally, around 80–100 kg of fruit is consumed per person each year. This requires an annual production of 950 million tons. Around 20% of this comes from temperate fruit crops, such as pome and stone fruits. Fruit production is a key economic sector worldwide, which today utilizes modern high-tech production systems. However, challenges such as low producer prices, rising costs, global trade pressures, and climate change increasingly threaten fruit production. Climate change contributes to more frequent pest infestations, crop diseases, and weather-related stress, including spring frosts and summer droughts. While growing tolerant varieties offers a potential solution, most commercial varieties are susceptible, and traditional tolerant varieties often lack desirable fruit quality. Breeding new resistant varieties is time-consuming and expensive. It is often difficult due to a lack of suitable genetic resources. Therefore, Germany and other European countries have increased their efforts to collect, conserve and evaluate genetic resources. Many temperate fruit species originated in the diversity centers of Middle and Central Asia, especially the Tien Shan Mountains, which still harbor diverse wild populations of apples, pears, cherries, and plums. Preserving this diversity and making it available through international collaboration is a major future goal. The JKI's Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops in Dresden-Pillnitz, Germany, plays a leading role in this work. It maintains extensive collections of fruit genetic resources and has participated in plant expeditions across the Caucasus, the Tien Shan mountains, and Europe. Its research includes genetic characterization, resistance testing, and stress tolerance evaluation. Identified donors for resistance are used in breeding and research. The Institute runs breeding programs for apple, pear, sweet, and sour cherry varieties for the global market. It also offers opportunities for students and scientists to engage in genetic resource conservation, cryopreservation, and breeding techniques. Each year, international guests join research programs and training, strengthening global efforts to safeguard fruit diversity for the future.



Prof. Dr. Yakub Ametov,
Karakalpak State University named after
Berdakh (KSU)

Curriculum Vitae

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2001-2003 - Intern-teacher at the Department of Ecology and Nature Conservation of Karakalpak State University

2003-2004 - intern – researcher at the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection of Karakalpak State University

2008-2012 - Assistant at the Department of Ecology and Physiology, Karakalpak State University
2012-2013 - Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Physiology, Karakalpak State University

2013-2015 - Head of the Department of Ecology and Physiology, Karakalpak State University

2015-2019 - Head of the Department of Ecology and Soil Science, Karakalpak State University

from 2019 - present - Professor of the Department of Ecology and Soil Science at Karakalpak State University

from 2019 - present - Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Karakalpak State University

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Doctor of Biological Sciences, 2019 Institute of Zoology Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Tashkent)

The title of the dissertation topic: “Biodiversity of birds of Karakalpakstan and their protection (fauna, ecology, conservation).”

2004-2007 - postgraduate student at Tashkent State Agrarian University

September 1999 –July 2001 - Master of science degree in Ecology Karakalpak State University (Nukus)

September 1995 – June 1999- Bachelor of science in Biology. Karakalpak State University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING:

Since 2008, member of the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organization (NGO) “Bird Conservation Society of Uzbekistan”.

From 2009 to the present, head of the Karakalpak branch of the NGO “Bird Conservation Society of Uzbekistan”.

From 2013 to the present, member of the Council of the Karakalpak branch of the NGO “Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan”.

From 2019 to the present, member of the “Ecological Party of Uzbekistan”.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Biodiversity and ecosystem services loss in the Republic of Uzbekistan - national challenges and international cooperation needs**

This presentation addresses the pressing issues of biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the importance of international cooperation in tackling these challenges. The Republic of Uzbekistan, with its unique natural resources and diverse ecosystems, faces an increasing threat to its biodiversity, driven by climate change and human activities. The main consequences of biodiversity loss include the decline in the quality of ecosystem services, which play a vital role in sustaining life and supporting the population's economic well-being.

The presentation provides an in-depth analysis of the key factors contributing to ecosystem degradation, including the destruction of natural habitats, environmental pollution, and unsustainable agricultural practices. It emphasizes that biodiversity loss directly affects agriculture, public health, and the sustainable development of regions. Special attention is given to the interconnection between biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as water purification and the protective functions of natural systems.

Currently, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2019–2028 is being implemented. Its goal is to achieve a sustainable balance between the country's economic development and the continued functioning of ecosystems.

To effectively address these issues, the Republic of Uzbekistan requires international cooperation with other countries and organizations. The presentation outlines concrete steps to strengthen interstate collaboration, invest in the sustainable use of natural resources, and share best practices. It is noted that the long-term strategy for biodiversity conservation and the improvement of ecosystem services is not only a national priority but also a global task that demands joint efforts from all stakeholders. This presentation aims to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and to encourage action at all levels, from local to international.



Prof. Dr. Svetlana Mambetullaeva,
Karakalpak Research Institute for Natural Sciences,
Director

Curriculum Vitae

Main Research Field:

Ecology and environmental protection, population ecology, ecological modeling, and optimization of interactions between the environment and living organisms. She develops the scientific foundations of population ecology theory, studies mammal population dynamics and demographic structures, and examines ecological impacts on the biota of the Southern Aral Sea region, with application in ecology and environmental protection.

Scientific Achievements:

She developed a new approach in population ecology, reflecting the functional role of populations in species systems, environmental adaptation, and evolution. She analyzed regulation mechanisms and variability in small mammal populations under environmental degradation in the Aral Sea region. A concept for sustainable and rational use of biological resources and ecological standards for regional differentiation in the Southern Aral region was developed.

Current Projects/Research Activities:

Scientific supervisor of the project *“Study of adaptive strategies of the faunal complex in the dynamic environment of the Southern Aral Sea region: population and community resilience.”*

Within the international project *“Monitoring the biodiversity of wetlands in the Southern Aral Sea region”* (supported by IFAS, GEF, OSCE), she researches environmental impacts on ecosystems and population adaptation mechanisms.

As part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ project on Aral Sea basin ecosystems, she contributes to the reconstruction of the International Muynak Biological Station and systematization of ecological research.

Public and Scientific Activity:

Chair of the Academic Council for Doctoral Dissertation Defense (03.00.10 – Ecology) at the Karakalpak Research Institute of Natural Sciences.

Editorial board member of leading journals in Uzbekistan, CIS countries, and beyond.

Member of the Scientific and Technical Council at the Agency for Innovative Development under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of Uzbekistan.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Biodiversity and ecosystem services research in the Republic of Uzbekistan - potential for cooperation with Germany**

The Republic of Uzbekistan, a biodiversity-rich country in Central Asia, harbors diverse ecosystems ranging from arid deserts and steppes to fertile river valleys and mountainous habitats. Despite increasing interest in conservation, research on biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) in Uzbekistan remains underdeveloped due to limited technical capacity, insufficient data infrastructure, and scarce international collaboration. However, the country's strategic location and ecological diversity offer substantial potential for scientific advancement in the field of BES.

Germany, with its extensive expertise in ecological research, biodiversity monitoring, and environmental policy, represents a strong partner for capacity-building and joint research initiatives. Opportunities for cooperation include the development of long-term biodiversity databases, application of remote sensing and geospatial technologies, and integration of ecosystem service assessments into national policy-making. Joint efforts could also support Uzbekistan's goals under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and contribute to regional sustainability efforts in Central Asia.

This paper highlights the current state of BES research in Uzbekistan and outlines pathways for research-based cooperation with German institutions, emphasizing the mutual benefits of enhanced knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and coordinated conservation strategies.



Dr. Michael Kramer,
Acibadem International Medical Center (TIMC) Tashkent, Director

Curriculum Vitae

Since 08/2021 Chief Medical Officer, Tashkent International Medical Center, Tashkent
Head of Visceral medicine; TIMC, Tashkent

04/2018-07/2021 Owner and Independent physician in practice „Chirurgische Praxis Dr. Kramer“, Munich-Perlach

04/2018-07/2021 Medical Director for Bariatric Surgery, Helios Clinic, Munich-Perlach

04/2015-03/2018 Medical Director of the “Viszera” abdominal surgery GmbH, Munich, Germany

04/2010-03/2015 Acting Medical Leader of the Department of Visceral-and Abdominal Surgery, in the „Chirurgischen Kliniken München – Bogenhausen“ Munich- Germany

since 2010 Leading Medical Surgeon and Instructor for Endometriosis Surgery
Department of gynecology, University Hospital
Homburg- Saar, Germany, Prof. Dr. Erich Solomayer

11/2009-03/2010 Speaker of the Obesity Platform at the University Hospital Tübingen- Germany

2007-2010 Surgical leader of the Obesity Platform (ADIP) at the University Hospital Tübingen- Germany

2005 Foundation and Establishment of the Obesity Platform (ADIP) at the University Hospital Tübingen- Germany

2003-2004 Period of experience in endoscopy,
Prof. Dr. K.E. Grund, University Hospital, Tübingen- Germany

08/2002-03/2010 Period of experience as medical-doctor-, Specialist -, Functional senior physician at the University Hospital in Tübingen, Department of Visceral-, Abdominal- and Transplantation-Surgery

1999-2002 Medical Doctor at the „Mattner-Klinik-GmbH“, Cologne-Porz

*Abstract of the Presentation***Ecosystem service losses and their impact on human health - using the example of air and water pollutants**

The loss of ecosystem services leads to a deterioration of air and water quality and poses serious health risks. The decline in biodiversity endangers food supplies and impairs the population's food security. A strong awareness of the connection between ecosystem services and human health is essential for effective action.

Health risks from polluted air:

Polluted air can cause severe respiratory diseases that significantly affect the quality of life of those affected. Exposure to polluted air increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and is associated with higher mortality rates. Monitoring air quality is crucial to minimize health risks from air pollution and to protect public health.

Health risks from contaminated water:

The consumption of contaminated water can lead to serious illnesses such as diarrhea and cholera, which pose a threat to public health. Effective water management is essential to protect the health of the population and to ensure access to clean drinking water. Water treatment is an important measure to reduce pathogens and improve water quality in affected areas.

Technological solutions and innovations:

Advanced water treatment systems are vital for providing clean water and reducing environmental pollution. Low-emission technologies help reduce air pollution and promote sustainable urban development. Technological innovations are necessary to protect the environment and improve public health.

Conclusion:

The loss of ecosystem services can lead to serious health issues for the population, including respiratory and other diseases. It is crucial to take action to protect the environment and promote human health. Through collective efforts and increased awareness, we can create positive change for both the environment and public health.

Topic 2: Challenges to landscape ecology and land-use planning in the age of climate change and biodiversity loss

Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Feger, Dresden University of Technology, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology, Senior Professor

Impacts of land use and climate change on soil and water-related ecosystem services - requirements for an integrated watershed management for the Republic of Uzbekistan

Prof. Dr. Uta Steinhardt, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE), Vice President for Studies and Teaching

Landscape use and nature conservation using the example of organic farming and marketing - potential for the Republic of Uzbekistan

Prof. PhD. Amet Habibullaev, Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh (KSU)

Sustainable land use in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and opportunities for international cooperation

Prof. Dr. Bibigul Tleumuratova, Karakalpak Research Institute for Natural Sciences

An environmental media analysis of soil, air, and water in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and potential for cooperation with Germany

Prof. Dr. Aliya Aktymbayeva, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Dean

Geoecological education as a tool for preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services



Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Feger,
Dresden University of Technology, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology, Senior Professor

Curriculum Vitae

Karl-Heinz Feger was born on February 2, 1957, in Offenburg (SW Germany). After graduating from Gymnasium (high school) and completing his military service, he began studying hydrology (minors in botany and soil science) at the Albert Ludwig University at Freiburg (ALU) in 1978 with study periods in Switzerland (ETH Zurich) and Norway (Oslo). He received his doctorate in 1986 (summa cum laude = with honors) from the Faculty of Forest Sciences at ALU. In 1992 he got his habilitation in the disciplines of soil science and geoecology. During the period 1992 – 1998 he worked as assistant professor at ALU. He coordinated the long-term research program ARINUS focusing on the biogeochemistry of forested watersheds affected by acid rain and countermeasuring liming. In 1998, he became visiting professor for biogeophysics at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Hohenheim University (Stuttgart). In 2020 he obtained a full professor position for forest soils and plant nutrition at TU Dresden (TUD), Faculty of Forest-, Geo-, and Water Sciences. From 2009 to his retirement in 2023 he was director of the Institute of Soil Science and Site Ecology. He served as Dean of Faculty (2013 – 2018). Since his retirement in 2023 Prof. Feger is still involved in research at TUD with the status of a Senior professor. During the years his research has centered around the biogeochemical functioning of terrestrial ecosystems and complex landscapes. This includes major aspects of agricultural and forest hydrology including water quality, in particular effects of a changing environment (climate, land management). Experimental work in the field and lab is combined with various modeling approaches. A special emphasis has been put on soils as crucial interfaces in the fluxes of water and nutrients, as well as contaminants. Prof. Feger has been PI and coordinator of several national and international research projects and programs (i.e., EU-COST, France, Portugal, China, Canada, E Africa). Furthermore, he served as long-standing editor-in-chief of the “Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science” (Wiley). He was President of the German Soil Science Society (DBG) until 2023. Based on his research Prof. Feger has authored and co-authored numerous journal articles and books (<http://www.researcherid.com/rid/B-4727-2019>). Furthermore, he was instrumental in the founding and conceptual development of the Dresden-based United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES). In 2024, Prof. Feger was elected corresponding member of the Academy of Agriculture of France, Paris.

Impacts of land use and climate change on soil and water-related ecosystem services - requirements for an integrated watershed management for the Republic of Uzbekistan

Healthy and functional soils are a basic prerequisite for the provision of the majority of ecosystem services. This applies in particular to water-related services such as the water supply of plants for their growth and productivity ("green water"), the retention of water in connection with decentralized flood protection, the recharge of groundwater, water dynamics in aquatic ecosystems, or the supply with sufficient and high-quality drinking water ("blue water"). A key factor here is the type and stability of the soil structure, which is heavily dependent on the organic matter in the soil, the activity of soil organisms and the distribution of roots. Their interactions determine the flow paths along slopes in the watershed. Changes in land use and climatic conditions may affect the situation and, thus, intensify competing demands and conflicts. Process-based models that realistically depict water and material flows are important tools for visualizing the effects of both land use and climate change. Results can support the integrated management of soil and water resources in a watershed-based approach. However, a prerequisite for the application of models like the Soil Water Assessment TOOL (SWAT) is sufficient information on the spatially variable characteristics of soil cover and how relevant soil parameters relate to changes in land use. The presentation overviews concepts and gives some examples. Finally, a potential transfer to the conditions in Tajikistan is addressed.



Prof. Dr. Uta Steinhardt,
Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
(HNEE), Vice President for Studies and Teaching

Curriculum Vitae

Career:

since 2021: Vice President for Studies and Teaching at HNEE

2019-2021: Chairwoman of the HNEE Senate

2005-2011: Dean of the Department of Landscape Management and Nature Conservation

2004: Habilitation and teaching qualification in physical geography and landscape ecology; topic of habilitation thesis: "A new approach to mesoscale landscape-ecological process research"

since 2002: Professorship for Landscape Ecology and Land Use Planning at the HNE Eberswalde

1994-2002: Research assistant (PostDoc) and visiting scientist in the Department of Applied Landscape Ecology at the Environmental Research Center Leipzig-Halle

1991-1994: Research assistant at the Institute of Geography and Geoecology at the University of Potsdam

1988-1991: PhD at the University of Potsdam, thesis: "Methodical approaches to areal differentiation of forest damage based on remote sensing data"

1983-1988: Studies in Potsdam (Geography, Mathematics)

Research projects and priorities in the area of sustainable land use:

Ecosystem services: Securing ecosystem services and biodiversity in extensively managed cultural landscapes (2016-2022); Sewage irrigation field landscape: Testing new synergies between nature conservation and forestry through the grazing of heterogeneous forest landscapes - afforested sewage irrigation fields - in the area of conflict between large cities and nature parks (2011 - 2015); Sustainable land management: Development of integrated land management through sustainable water and material use in north-eastern Germany (2011-2015); Climate change & regional development: mitigation & adaptation strategies (INKA BB: Innovation Network Climate Adaptation Brandenburg-Berlin; BMBF project 2009-2014)

Other activities:

2020-2024: Member of the Sustainability Advisory Board of the State of Brandenburg

since 2019: Member of the Board of Trustees of the Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve

2008-2022: Member of the board of the Barnim Nature Park Association

since 1999: Founding member of the German regional organization of IALE (International Association for Landscape Ecology), until 2022 Member of the Board of IALE-D e.V. (Deputy Chairwoman/ Managing Director)

Landscape use and nature conservation using the example of organic farming and marketing - potential for the Republic of Uzbekistan

To meet the challenges of our time, such as the finite nature of natural resources and feeding the world, we need an agriculture that takes equal account of climate, environmental and animal protection. The Innovation Center for Sustainable Food Systems brings together scientists, teachers, practitioners and students. The aim is to promote innovation processes in the organic agriculture and food industry through partnership and creative cooperation and to make the entire value chain sustainable. With this understanding, the colleagues in the specialist areas of organic agriculture and food management also work together with non-university research institutions and practice partners in numerous inter- and transdisciplinary research projects, both regionally and nationally.

The project “Climate-resilient cultivation methods for risk optimization” aims to further develop existing production systems in plant cultivation on a region-specific basis in order to make them more resistant to climate change phenomena. Climatic, agronomic, phytosanitary and environmental risks are considered and business and economic risks are analyzed. Based on an already established network of stakeholders possible adaptation scenarios are quantified with regard to their effects, discussed with the stakeholders, possible optimizations for regional cultivation systems are derived and some of them are tested in demonstration projects on farms with regard to their feasibility.

Legumes are indispensable for organic farming in crop rotations, as their symbiosis with nodule bacteria in the roots enables them to bind atmospheric nitrogen and make it usable for the plant. As a rule, they bind more than they need for their own requirements, so that the excess nitrogen can be used to supply subsequent non-leguminous crops. They also root the soil intensively and deeply. As a result, they not only improve the soil structure, but also help to absorb nutrients that have been transferred to the subsoil. But how will the cultivation of legumes succeed under the conditions of climate change? It is also worth looking to Central Asia as a climate analogy region, because in a few decades the climate in eastern Germany could be similar to that here locally, with enormous consequences for agriculture and biodiversity. Especially if sufficient and rapid countermeasures are not taken. Against this background, cooperation on options for cultivating legumes under extremely dry climatic conditions is a good idea.



Prof. PhD. Amet Habibullaev,
Karakalpak State University named after Berdakh
(KSU)

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Ecology scientist, special area of competence:

- Environment, industrial pollution and protection
- Agroecology systems
- Sustainable ecology development

WORK EXPERIENCE

2009/2010 – Teacher in Biology, Chirchik Academic Lyceum, Tashkent area

2012/2014 – Assistant, Karakalpak State University, Chair of Biology and Soil Science

2014/2015 – Assistant, Karakalpak State University, Department of Ecology and Physiology

2022 – PhD, Karakalpak State University, Department of Ecology and Soil Science

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2006/2008 – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

PhD Student – Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Khorezm Academy Mamun (Khiva)

09/1997 – 05/2001 Master in Environmental Sciences – Karakalpak State University

▪ Environmental systems analysis; Land degradation; Pollution control and mitigation; Climate change and mitigation

International visits and fellowships

- Pisa University (Pisa, Italy) – Training in Uzhelth Project Tempus
- Portu University (Porto, Portugal) – Training in Uzhelth, Project of Tempus
- Ghent University (Ghent, Belgium) – Training in Public Health, Project T
- Nitra Agriculture University – Training in Public Health, Project Tempus
- Study and practice of Regional Project, KSU

Social skills

Team player, open-minded; Always proactive and chase opportunities; Ability to work under high pressure; Ability to conduct research in any interesting discipline; Act reasonably quick in resolving various issues

Other skills

Accurate with good work ethics and integrity

Computer literate and good communicator

Sustainable land use in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and opportunities for international cooperation

Sustainable land use is a critical issue in the Republic of Uzbekistan, where vast areas face degradation due to intensive agriculture, salinization, deforestation, and the long-term impacts of the Aral Sea crisis. Although the government has implemented several land reform initiatives and environmental protection programs, challenges persist in balancing economic development with ecological sustainability.

Current land use practices are heavily influenced by water-intensive cotton cultivation, soil erosion, and insufficient implementation of conservation agriculture. Recent national strategies, such as the “Strategy for the Transition to a Green Economy,” aim to improve land productivity, promote afforestation, and support climate-resilient agriculture. However, progress is limited by technical capacity gaps, lack of access to innovative technologies, and fragmented stakeholder coordination.

International cooperation offers strong potential to support sustainable land use in Uzbekistan. Germany, with its experience in land restoration, agroecology, and landscape-level planning, is a particularly relevant partner. Opportunities for collaboration include joint research, pilot projects on sustainable land management, capacity-building programs, and the implementation of satellite-based monitoring tools. Such partnerships can strengthen Uzbekistan’s efforts to combat land degradation and contribute to global sustainability goals.



Prof. Dr. Bibigul Tleumuratova,
Karakalpak Research Institute for Natural Sciences

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Place of Birth: Nukus, Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan

Degree: Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (2018)

Title: Senior Researcher (2016)

Position: Head of the Laboratory "Modeling of Ecological Processes", Karakalpak Scientific Research Institute of Natural Sciences

Research Interests

- Mathematical and statistical modeling of ecological and meteorological processes
- Dust and salt migration from the Aral Sea
- Desertification and climatic impacts
- Ecosystem dynamics and air pollution

Education

- 1977 — Specialist Degree in Mathematics, Karakalpak State University

Professional Experience

- 1977–Present: Various research and academic roles at Nukus State University, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and Karakalpak Scientific Research Institute of Natural Sciences.
- Since 2014 — Head of Laboratory "Modeling of Ecological Processes"

Scientific Supervision

- Supervised 2 defended PhDs and several PhD and Master's theses on desertification, air pollution, and climate change.

Research Projects

- "AL-392103042: Modeling of ecological and meteorological processes in desertification zones" (2022–2023)
- "IL-5221091475: Innovative technologies for vegetation monitoring in Karakalpakstan" (2023–2025)

Publications

- Author of over 180 scientific papers in international and national journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, including E3S Web of Conferences and others.

Awards

- Medal "Shukhrat" (2011)

An environmental media analysis of soil, air, and water in the Republic of Uzbekistan - status quo and potential for cooperation with Germany

Assessment of air, soil, and water quality is vital for sustaining Uzbekistan's large and growing population, given the limited availability of arable land and water resources. The quality of these components depends largely on pollution, mainly from industrial waste. However, in the Southern Aral region, surrounded by vast deserts—Kyzylkum, Karakum, Ustyurt, and Aralkum—the issue of dust storms and persistent atmospheric dustiness is particularly pressing.

Dust emissions from desert surfaces (wind-driven aerosol transport) primarily occur from April to October, when soil moisture falls below 5% and wind speeds exceed 4–5 m/s. During calm summer conditions with wind speeds up to 3 m/s, convective dust lifting becomes significant. These phenomena have serious negative consequences, especially for public health, as dust often carries microbes, heavy metals, and organic compounds.

To assess aerosol pollution and its impacts, we developed various numerical and statistical models. These enabled new insights into aerosol forcing of air temperature. Mathematical modeling helped analyze the long-term influence of desert dust on air quality and its yearly dynamics. As a result, spatial fields of near-ground dust concentration (0–2 meters), critical for human exposure, were produced.

Given that aerosols, particularly desert dust, strongly affect the regional climate, we also modeled thermal pollution. It was found that convective dust lifting increases air temperature by an average of 0.8 K across the region and by 2–3 K directly over deserts. Fine dust particles (0.3–0.5 μm) have the strongest heating effect, raising temperatures by up to 6–8 K. These results were validated by multiple field measurements of dust and temperature.

Special focus was placed on Aralkum, the anthropogenic desert, which emits toxic sulfate aerosols during dust storms. These aerosols travel long distances, affecting the climate. They reduce air temperature by 2–3 K and increase regional precipitation by 7–9 mm, while having little impact on relative humidity (less than 0.5%).



Prof. Dr. Aliya Aktymbayeva,
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty,
Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences,
Dean

Curriculum Vitae

Academic Background:

PhD in Geography (2008), Associate Professor (2020)
BSc in Geoecology (1996), BSc in Hotel Business (2024)

Positions:

Dean since 2023, former Head of Department
Deputy Director (2015–2020), Associate Professor (2007–2020)
Senior Lecturer (2002–2007)

Research:

Fields: Tourism, Geoecology, Environmental carrying capacity
10+ indexed articles (2020–2024), 10+ monographs
Ecotourism in Kazakhstan (Springer, 2021)
30+ copyright certificates, 2 national patents

Profiles:

Scopus: scopus.com
ORCID: orcid.org/0000-0003-1269-356

Courses:

E-learning in Tourism & Hospitality
Innovative Management in Hospitality

Awards:

“Eren Enbegi Ushin” Medal (2024), KazNU Medal (2022)
Best University Teacher (2011, 2022)
Govt. Scholarship for Young Scientists (2008–2012)

Further Training:

Digital Teaching (Astana IT Univ., 2025)
Data Visualization (Coursera, 2024)
English (B2, InterPress), UNWTO & Springer workshops

Geoecological education as a tool for preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services

Kazakhstan is home to a wide range of unique ecosystems—from mountain forests and steppes to deserts and inland waters—many of which are under increasing pressure due to climate change, unsustainable land use, and biodiversity loss. In this context, geoecological education emerges as a powerful instrument for fostering sustainable environmental governance and ensuring the long-term preservation of ecosystem services. This presentation highlights the role of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) in advancing geoecological education as both an academic field and a practical tool for environmental stewardship.

KazNU integrates interdisciplinary approaches that combine geography, ecology, remote sensing, and environmental management. The university's educational programs emphasize place-based learning, field research, and active collaboration with state and non-governmental environmental organizations. Students are trained to assess ecological risks, use geoinformation systems (GIS), and design conservation strategies tailored to Kazakhstan's fragile biomes, including the Altai-Sayan biodiversity hotspot, the Ustyurt Plateau, and the dried Aral Sea zone.

Geoecological education at KazNU is closely aligned with national priorities such as the Concept for Transition to a Green Economy and international frameworks including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Beyond professional training, KazNU promotes public environmental awareness through outreach, community engagement, and integration of environmental ethics into the curriculum. Special attention is paid to preparing future educators who can embed geoecological principles in secondary and higher education across Kazakhstan.

The presentation will share examples of best practices, student-led research, and institutional partnerships that support ecosystem restoration, species monitoring, and local sustainability initiatives. Ultimately, geoecological education at KazNU not only contributes to academic excellence but also plays a strategic role in building environmental resilience and safeguarding Kazakhstan's ecological future.

Topic 3: Current and prospective cooperation on the conference topic between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Andreas Schneider, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank, KfW Regional Office Central Asia, Director

Cooperative projects with Uzbekistan on health promotion and sustainability development

Bakhytzhan Khabibullayev, International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan (IICAS), Director

Climate protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan - projects to strengthen international scientific cooperation

Dr. Peter Liebelt, Central Asian Sustainable Innovations Bureau (CASIB), Director
International partnerships for sustainable innovation - cooperation projects with Uzbekistan

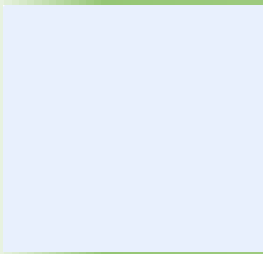
Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer, Dresden University of Technology; NETSCI GmbH, Managing Director

Dr. Yesbol Omirzhanov, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Department of International Cooperation, Director

Dr. Kenzhebai Umetov, Kyrgyz National University KNU, Bishkek, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Director

Prof. Dr. Aliya Aktymbayeva, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Dean

Regional management and value creation for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (ALMA-KiKa) – using the example of the Asian wild apple “Malus Sieversii”



Dr. Andreas Schneider,
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development
Bank, KfW Regional Office Central Asia, Director

Curriculum Vitae

Position:

Regional Director of the KfW Development Bank for Central Asia, responsible for the KfW offices in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), based in Tashkent. Overall financial cooperation portfolio in Central Asia amounts to approximately EUR 1.7 billion.

Professional Experience:

Since 1990, active in development cooperation (KfW Development Bank, German Development Service – DED, GTZ/GIZ) as an employee both in Germany and abroad, as well as a consultant:

- Head of KfW Development Bank office in Tajikistan
- Member of the Board of Directors of the First MicroFinance Bank, Tajikistan
- Head of KfW Development Bank office in Afghanistan (portfolio exceeding EUR 1.3 billion)
- Deputy Country Director of GIZ in Vietnam
- Country Director of DED in Afghanistan and Cambodia, and Regional Director for Central Asia and Syria/Lebanon
- Deputy Crisis Coordinator of DED (Bonn), including 6 years
- Head of the Regional Group for Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Middle East at DED
- Development worker/program coordinator for DED in Laos and Thailand
- Advisor at the Ministries of Education in Laos and Thailand

Academic assistant at the Southeast Asia Institute of Humboldt University in Berlin and lecturer at the University of Passau (Intercultural Management)

Ph.D. dissertation: *“Education Policy in Laos and Foreign Influences on the Development of Human Capital Illustrated by the Reintegration of Laotian Graduates of German Educational Institutions”*

Regional Experience:

Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Middle East

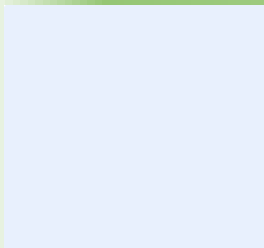
*Abstract of the Presentation***Cooperative projects with Uzbekistan on health promotion and sustainability development**

The presentation provides an overview of the KfW Development Bank's project portfolio in Uzbekistan, with a particular focus on activities related to the city of Nukus. The portfolio spans multiple sectors including water supply and sanitation, energy efficiency, healthcare, vocational education, and financial system development.

Key highlights include:

- **Water Sector (Urban Development):** Significant investments are being made to improve access to clean drinking water and sanitation, particularly in underserved regions like Karakalpakstan. Projects in Nukus aim to rehabilitate and expand water supply and sewage systems.
- **Energy Efficiency:** KfW supports initiatives to enhance energy efficiency in public and industrial sectors. This includes funding for modernizing district heating systems and introducing renewable energy sources.
- **Healthcare:** Efforts focus on strengthening primary healthcare, particularly for maternal and child health. Investments are directed at upgrading facilities and medical equipment, including in Nukus.
- **Vocational Training (TVET):** KfW contributes to strengthening the technical and vocational education and training system. This includes modernizing equipment and curricula, training teachers, and improving access to high-quality vocational education, especially in remote regions such as Karakalpakstan.
- **Financial Sector:** KfW promotes inclusive financial systems by supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through credit lines and capacity building for local financial institutions and end beneficiaries.

The presentation emphasizes the strategic importance of the Nukus region and outlines ongoing and planned projects, their funding volumes, partners involved, and expected impacts.



Bakhytzhon Khabibullayev,
International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Region
under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protec-
tion and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbeki-
stan (IICAS), Director

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Background:

His professional career began in 1993 at Karakalpak State University as a lecturer. From 1993 to 1995, he served as an attaché in the Karakalpak branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. From January 1995 to August 1998, he was attaché at the Consulate General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

In 1998–1999, he was a trainee at the Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. From September 1999 to 2000, he worked as Third Secretary in the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From March 2000 to January 2003, he served as Head of Department in the Karakalpak branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From February 2003 to March 2006, he held the position of Third Secretary at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Germany.

From April 2006 to November 2017, he worked as a project coordinator for the German International Cooperation Society (GIZ) in Karakalpakstan. From December 2017 to January 2018, he was a consultant on the regional project "Improving the Living Conditions of the Population Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster" under a joint UN project.

Current Position:

Since February 15, 2023, he has been serving as the Director of the International Innovation Center for Aral Sea basin under the Ministry of ecology, environmental protection and climate change of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Public and Administrative Activities:

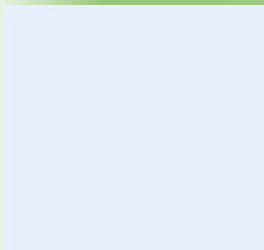
Khabibullaev Bakhytzhon has extensive experience in diplomacy, regional development, international cooperation, and innovation policy implementation. He continues to contribute to national initiatives in economic modernization, sustainable development, and international project coordination.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Climate protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Republic of Uzbekistan - projects to strengthen international scientific cooperation**

The International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea basin under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established in 2018 by Presidential Decree No. PP-3975. Its mission is to restore the ecological balance of the Aral Sea region, promote “green growth,” and develop sustainable environmental innovations. In 2023, the Center was transferred under the authority of the Ministry of Ecology, expanding its capacity for international collaboration.

The Center focuses on restoring ecosystems on the dried seabed of the Aral Sea, introducing efficient water-saving technologies, agroforestry, mitigating dust storms, promoting green energy, and building climate-resilient agricultural systems. It implements various international projects in partnership with institutions such as the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (China), ICBA (UAE), GIZ (Germany), USAID, and others. Over 50 cooperation agreements and MoUs with local and foreign partners support the implementation of cutting-edge technologies in areas like solar and wind energy, climate-resilient crop breeding, laboratory infrastructure, and water purification.

The Center also conducts experimental plantings of halophytes, forage, and medicinal crops, and organizes educational seminars for farmers and scientific collaboration. In 2024, one of its projects won the national prize of the prestigious Energy Globe Award. Through its multifaceted efforts, the Center plays a vital role in the sustainable development of the Aral Sea region.



Dr. Peter Liebelt,
Central Asian Sustainable Innovations Bureau (CASIB),
Director

Curriculum Vitae

Since 12.2018 head of the Central Asia Sustainable Innovation Bureau (CASIB), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Representative Office of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Almaty (Kazakhstan).

Research assistant for teaching tasks at the Institute of Geosciences and Geography, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2016–2018).

Defence of the doctoral thesis "Effects of post-soviet land use change on soil degradation and soil water balance in the pre-Uralic forest-steppe zone of the Republic of Bashkortostan" (2016).

Subproject manager in the "KULUNDA" project "How do you prevent the next 'Global Dust Bowl'? – Ecological and economic strategies for sustainable land use in Russian steppes: A contribution to adaptation to climate change", funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Department of Geoecology at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2014–2016).

Research assistant for the scientific coordination of the project "Consequences of (post-soviet) land use and climate change for landscape water budget, soil degradation and rehabilitation in the forest-steppe zone of Bashkortostan" within the framework of the funding initiative "Between Europe and the Orient – Central Asia/ Caucasus in the Focus of Science", funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (2010–2014).

*Abstract of the Presentation***International partnerships for sustainable innovation - cooperation projects with Uzbekistan**

Uzbekistan, with its youthful and ambitious population, abundant natural resources, and strategic location within the Central Corridor, is gaining geopolitical significance and demonstrating vast developmental potential. At the same time, the country faces environmental challenges, including accelerating land degradation and increasing water shortages—issues exacerbated by population growth and climate change—that threaten the region's sustainable progress. The overexploitation of ecosystems leads to the deterioration of crucial functions, such as climate regulation and food production. Only a diverse biological network can ensure the efficient operation of energy and material cycles—such as water and nutrient cycles—while preserving essential ecosystem services.

Recognizing these challenges, the German research community—including funding bodies, intermediary institutions, and research organizations—is dedicated to making a significant contribution toward developing innovative, collaborative solutions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection through international cooperation with Uzbekistan. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is currently supporting numerous initiatives through its bilateral innovation partnership program with Uzbekistan, as well as through a framework announcement for funding research and innovation projects in collaboration with countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia. Additionally, the German Research Foundation (DFG) is preparing a pilot program for Uzbekistan. Since 2018, the Central Asia Sustainable Innovation Bureau (CASIB) has been facilitating research collaboration between Germany and Uzbekistan.

The conference presentation highlights the successes of previous research partnerships while providing insights into future opportunities and potential.



Prof. (ret.) Prof. h. c. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Matthias Kramer,
Dresden University of Technology; NETSCI GmbH,
Managing Director

Curriculum Vitae

1980-1985	Study of Business Administration at the Department of Economics of the University of Osnabrück (Uni Os)
1985-1989	PhD student research group "Systems Research" of the Uni Os
1989-1991	Scientific Managing Director Systems Research Group of the Uni Os
1990	Ph.D. rer. pol. at the Department of Economics of the Uni Os
1990	PhD Award of the University Society of the Uni Os
1991-1995	Deputy Head of Department Environmental Research of the German Federal Foundation Environment (DBU) in Osnabrück
1995-2002	University Professor of Business Administration, especially Accounting at the International University Institute (IHI) Zittau
1995-2002	Deputy Director of IHI Zittau
1995-2007	Member of the institute council, head of the diploma course in business administration and other functions at IHI Zittau
2000	Scientific Award of the Federal German Working Group for Environment-Conscious Management (B.A.U.M. e. V.)
2002-2012	University Professor of General Business Administration, especially Controlling and Environmental Management (Dedication) at the IHI-Zittau
2005	Awarded the Cavalier Cross of the Republic of Poland
2007	Honorary doctorate from Drohobych State University (Ukraine)
2008-2009	Rector of the German-Kazakh University in Almaty (Kazakhstan)
2011	Honorary doctorate from the University of Kirovohrad (Ukraine)
2016	Honorary Professor of the Kazakh National Agrarian University Almaty
2013-2021	Professor for General Business Administration, esp. Controlling and Environmental Management at the Technical University of Dresden in Zittau
2021	Silver Medal of Honor from the German Caritas Association
2024	Award from the Uzbek Association of Medical Technology Manufacturers for long-standing services to the development of medical technology in the Republic of Uzbekistan
2025	Honorary Professorship of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in Bishkek



Dr. Yesbol Omirzhanov,
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty,
Department of International Cooperation, Director

Curriculum Vitae

Work experience:

2024-Present: Director of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University KAZNU Almaty, Department of International Cooperation

2019-2024: Director of International Cooperation Department Kazakh National Agrarian Research University

2019-Present: Professor of Law Department Kazakh National Agrarian University – holds lectures on the subjects “Agrarian Law”, “Food legislation and Law”, “Legal regulation in using new technologies in horticulture”, “Theory of State and Law”.

2017-2019: Director of the Center for accreditation and quality of educational program al-Farabi Kazakh National University – Organizing and supervising the accreditation of educational programs of the university.

2014-2019: Associated professor of International Law Department al-Farabi Kazakh National University – held lectures on the subjects „Theory of State and Law“, „History of State and Law of Foreign Countries“, „History of political and legal doctrines“, „Protection of Human Rights“, „Muslim Law“, was a supervisor of diploma and master’s theses.

2011- 2014: Associated professor, Head of Law Department Suleiman Demirel University – was engaged in organizational and managerial work, supervised the work of the department, organized department and university events.

2006-2011: Senior teacher, Associated professor of Kazakh National Pedagogical University – held lectures on the subjects „Theory of State and Law“, „History of State and Law of Foreign Countries“, „History of political and legal doctrines“, was a supervisor of diploma and master’s theses.

2004-2005: Teacher of Kazakh Ablay khan University of International Relations and World Languages – held lectures on the subjects „Theory of State and Law“, „History of State and Law of Foreign Countries“, „Protection of Human Rights“.

2003-2004: Teacher of Kainar University – was engaged in conducting classroom classes for students, was a group advisor.

Research theme: Problems of the legal regulation in using new technologies in horticulture, wineries and landscaping; History of political and legal doctrines, Problems of Accreditation of agricultural educational programs in the field of horticulture, wineries and landscaping.



Dr. Kenzhebai Umetov,
Kyrgyz National University KNU, Bishkek, Faculty of
Foreign Languages, Director

Curriculum Vitae

Education:

- 1990-1995 Studying at the Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn
- 2007-2017 Part-time postgraduate courses at the Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn
- 2007-2010 Doctoral studies at the International University of Bremen, Germany

Experience:

- since 1997 to the present day organizer of tourist trips, horseback riding tours, trekking and hunting in the Kyrgyz Republic as a freelancer
- 2000-2006 Lecturer at the Kyrgyz State University named after I. Arabaev, Chairman of the Trade Union Committee
- 2006-2007 Head of the Department of Foreign Languages of the Kyrgyz Agrarian University named after K. Skryabin
- 2009-2010 Deputy Director for International Relations of the Kyrgyz State University named after I. Arabaev
- 2010-2024 Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K. Skryabin
- since December 2023 Director of the Kyrgyz-German Institute at the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K. Skryabin
- from May 2024 Director of the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn

Skills, experiences and jobs:

Scholarship holder of the Government Program „Personnel of the XXI Century“ of the Kyrgyz Republic; Coordinator of the project with the University of Bremen „Traditions and cultures of small nationalities in Kyrgyzstan (Dungan example)“; Co-coordinator of the project FLEPP (foreign languages for professional purpose) at the Kyrgyz National University named after K. Skryabin; Coordinator of the NETSCI GmbH project at the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K. Skryabin „Regional management and value creation for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan „ALMA-KIKA“ – the example of endangered wild fruit species“.

*Abstract of the Presentation***Regional management and value creation for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (ALMA-KiKa) – using the example of the Asian wild apple “*Malus Sieversii*”**

Background

The project serves to protect wild apples and wild fruit trees in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The specification will take place in the project regions Kara-Alma/Jalal Abad in Kyrgyzstan and Almaty in Kazakhstan. The development and implementation of value creation concepts for the development of regional economic cycles takes place with obligatory consideration of nature conservation restrictions. The model for sustainable management is created with particular consideration of the needs/requirements of regional food suppliers in the context of the possible uses of existing/original wild fruit trees. The project commitment will also take place by raising awareness among the local population. The NGO cooperations will develop special public communication in this regard.

Aim

Tree sponsorships, gourmet weeks with wild apple products, kindergarten projects as well as school and further education initiatives are some of the conceivable activities in this regard. Families, children and young people in particular should be addressed and enthusiastic about the project. The main goal of the project is to build and establish exemplary value chains for wild apples (fresh and dried), walnuts, wild apricots, wild pears and honey from wild flowers/wild herbs. The project activities follow the “protection through use principle”.

Future opportunities and focus

As part of the project, model sustainability-oriented value chains for wild woody fruits in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are being designed and implemented as models. Through direct project cooperation and implementation with local NGOs and universities, not only are the project methods transparently communicated, but also scientifically evaluated and practically described. In addition to the environmental relief when the value chains are implemented, the direct involvement of the local population in the most diverse social classes and age groups also achieves an environmental education effect, which will act as an additional multiplier effect after the project has been successfully completed.



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Thank you for attending!

We sincerely thank you for your participation in the
“Protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in the Republic of Uzbekistan – potential for cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Uzbekistan” in Nukus, 19 May 2025.



Your contributions and engagement have made this event a valuable platform for exchanging knowledge and building future collaborations.

To help us improve and to collect your feedback, we kindly invite you to complete a short online evaluation.

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The Organizing Committee

