



## Pamir High Mountains Integrated Project Bulletin 13. 1\04.

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Monthly issue



**ACTED**  
Agence d'aide à la coopération technique et au développement.

**PHIP is an integrated development project implemented by the INGO ACTED. It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and UNESCO. It started operating in 1999 and aims at improving the livelihood of the local population by opening up sustainable economic options. Support to civil society, capacity building, and support to vulnerable population are the focus of activities. The project is organized into departments responsible for "Agriculture, Environment and Livestock", "Community Social Infrastructures", "Social and Poverty Alleviation", "Support to local handicraft", "Credit and Capacity Building" and "Culture". The latest program aims at developing structures for community based ecotourism.**

### Key events in December

- The Yak House members gathered in a meeting decided to increase handicrafts prices to increase part of the Yak House running costs. This is the first step of the Yak House towards independence;
- Guy Delaunay, UNESCO Evaluator, evaluated the ecotourism project from January 14<sup>th</sup> to January 16<sup>th</sup>;
- Pierre Yves Tessier, engineer from ACTED Uzbekistan, is currently advising the project on the ways to maximize insulation and take passive solar energy into account whilst constructing/rehabilitating buildings.

### Reports by departments

#### *The Yak House*

A meeting gathering 45 Yak House (YH) members was organized on January 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss about the YH's future. The members decided to increase product prices to include part of the YH running costs. Small items have since increased by 10% whilst big items have increased by 15%. The women also decided to move the YH workshop/office in the Murghab Ecotourism Association (META) office. This shall be done in the coming months. This will be another step forward towards ensuring the Yak House independence. The road towards independence, encompassing financial sustainability is however still long, most of the Yak House running costs still being paid by the project. Another meeting/workshop will be held in three months to assess the impact of price increase on customers' demand and to evaluate the percentage of the running costs covered by sales during the first three months of 2003.





*One of the YH members (left) presenting her ideas about the YH's future to her fellow members and the Yak House manager, Jumagul Ibraimova (right). The women were very active throughout the workshop and came up with very good ideas to progressively ensure the sustainability of the Yak House.*

#### Ecotourism

Mr Guy Delaunay, UNESCO ecotourism project evaluator, evaluated ACTED/PHIP ecotourism project from January 14<sup>th</sup> to January 16<sup>th</sup>. The evaluation was conducted together with representatives of the local authorities (Murghab Jamoat, Nature Protection Department, etc), Murghab Ecotourism Association (META) members and the project staff. Mr Delaunay expressed his deep satisfaction with 2003's results and helped the project staff, META members and local authorities representatives plan the 2004 activities. 2004 activities will mainly focus on marketing, increasing the reception capacity of home stays, service providers trainings, product development and on the creation of an eco-museum, located in META office. As a complement to transect surveys implemented in 2003, the project will also start environmental education activities, with a focus on conservancy and energy saving issues.



*ACTED/PHIP ecotourism project evaluation, January 2004. The evaluation allowed participants to assess the 2003 activities and helped them plan 2004 activities.*



**special reports - special reports - special reports - special reports - special reports****Coal sales at a preferential price**

Given the exceptionally cold winter in Murghab and upon request of the local authorities, ACTED decided to sell coal to the most vulnerable population of Murghab at a preferential price of 9 TJS per bag. In parallel with this emergency measure, the PHIP is looking at sustainable solutions to address the energy problem in Murghab. The visit of Pierre-Yves Tessier, adviser on insulation and passive solar energy, will contribute to identify more sustainable answers to this problem (see below).

**Visit of Pierre Yves Tessier, adviser on insulation and passive solar energy**

Pierre Yves Tessier, engineer from ACTED Uzbekistan, is currently advising the project on the ways to maximize insulation and to heat buildings with passive solar energy. In addition to passive solar energy, Pierre Yves focuses its attention on doors and windows technical specifications and “winterization” of private and public buildings. Pierre Yves conducted a seminar with Murghab carpenters in order to present them the new ACTED/PHIP doors and windows technical specifications. Pierre Yves’ visit is complementing the visit from Flurin Saluz, expert on energy savings techniques, who visited the project in 2003. In line with Flurin and Pierre-Yves’ visit, ACTED/PHIP will start in 2004 environmental education activities, part of which will focus on winterization of buildings and the integration of both passive solar energy and insulation materials into building design and construction.

**Opening of ACTED/PHIP resource centre to the public**

ACTED/PHIP resource centre is opened since January once a week to the public under the supervision of the culture officer. It displays information corners on the various department activities (minutes of meetings, achievements, etc) as well as literature in Russian language on development and other issues. English language tapes and books are also made available to the public. Meetings and seminars with ACTED/PHIP partners are regularly held in the resource centre and contribute to further advertise PHIP/ACTED activities in Murghab district.

**Compiled by the PHIP team.**

