

AGORA: an enabler for agroecology, ecosystem restoration, and natural resource management programmes

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KEY FEATURES

- Provides a **strong evidence base with regards to ecosystems**, the availability, use and management of **natural resources**, including formal or informal governance systems, to inform tailored programme planning and delivery, or policy development
- Enables sustainable and quality programme or policy interventions through **community engagement** and participatory research, planning and monitoring
- Establishes **linkages between local actors and practices and external innovation** to implement ecologically sustainable solutions
- Provides a **granular understanding of local natural resource-motivated conflict**, which often feeds higher-level dynamics, enabling improved management and greater social cohesion

TERRITORIAL ENTRY POINT SELECTION

Agroecology and natural resource management (NRM) focused projects or multisectoral initiatives that include such a component can build upon existing (administrative) territorial units or informal boundaries. The latter can be based on a shared natural resource's catchment area (area of influence) such as sub-watersheds, or areas where inhabitants share similar or complementary livelihoods, including based on shared natural resources.

Case studies

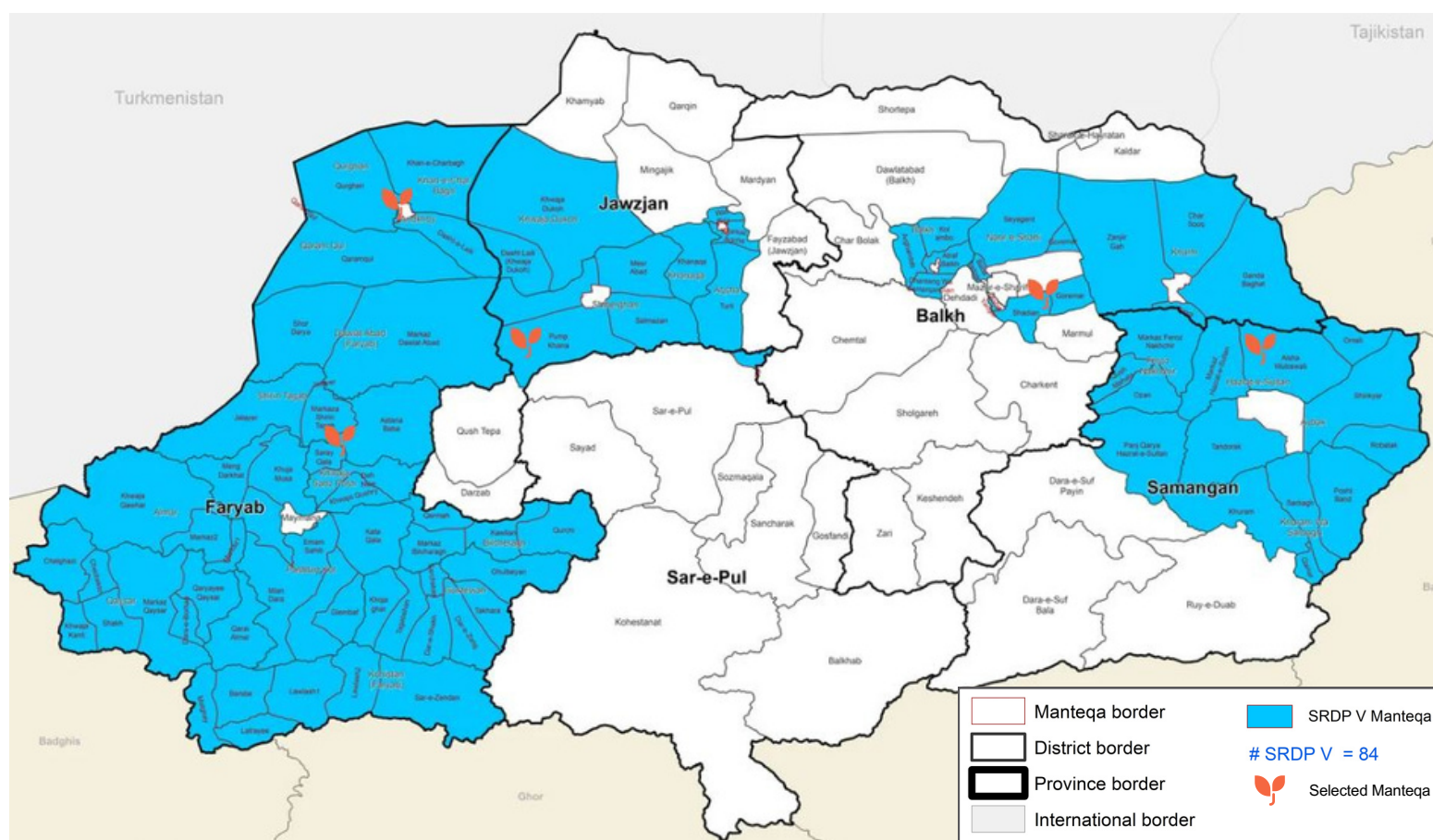
Afghanistan: REVIVE pilot within SRDP V



In Phase V of the ongoing Sustained Rural Development Programme, Acted and IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) use the AGORA methodology to pilot Acted's agroecology flagship THRIVE-REVIVE in five target traditional neighbourhood zones (*manteqas*) across four northern provinces of Afghanistan. The following *manteqas* were selected: Saray Qala and Andkhoyee (Faryab), Pump Khana (Jawzjan), Shadian (Balkh), and Alsha Wolswali (Samangan), based on specific criteria, including accessibility for all *manteqa*'s residents; public land ownership and communal resources; high vulnerability to soil degradation; endangered forests and pastures; limitation on slope gradient (20%); agriculture and livestock as primary livelihoods; key role of agricultural outputs in *manteqa*'s markets; and potential for watershed establishment.

Based on IMPACT's area-based assessments (ABA) and an analysis of key soil condition indicators through remote sensing, GIS mapping, and REVIVE-specific assessments, the community of each *manteqa* will address land degradation and agroecological issues, benefit from targeted capacity-building efforts, and will play a key role in monitoring the implementation of REVIVE activities.

Fig 1: SRDP V area of intervention and THRIVE-REVIVE pilot *manteqas*, IMPACT, 2023



Regional resource management in Central Asia



Through the STREAM project, Acted, IMPACT and International Alert aim to improve the sustainable use of water and land resources in the context of climate change to help mitigate tensions and build trust across the three countries that share the Fergana valley (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). Based on the AGORA methodology, sub-river basins were identified and prioritised following the profiling of transboundary watersheds. An in-depth analysis of stresses and vulnerability helped to provide a data-driven understanding of exposure to natural and anthropogenic risks and the impacts of climate change in the target watershed. This has provided an evidence-base to develop and inform more efficient NRM processes,

integrating THRIVE tools, and for targeted investments in infrastructure rehabilitation and water accounting systems, all of which will benefit local and national stakeholders and communities in all three countries.

Fig 2: Projected change in annual precipitation in the Fergana valley (in mm), between 1970-2000 and 2041-2060, IMPACT, 2023

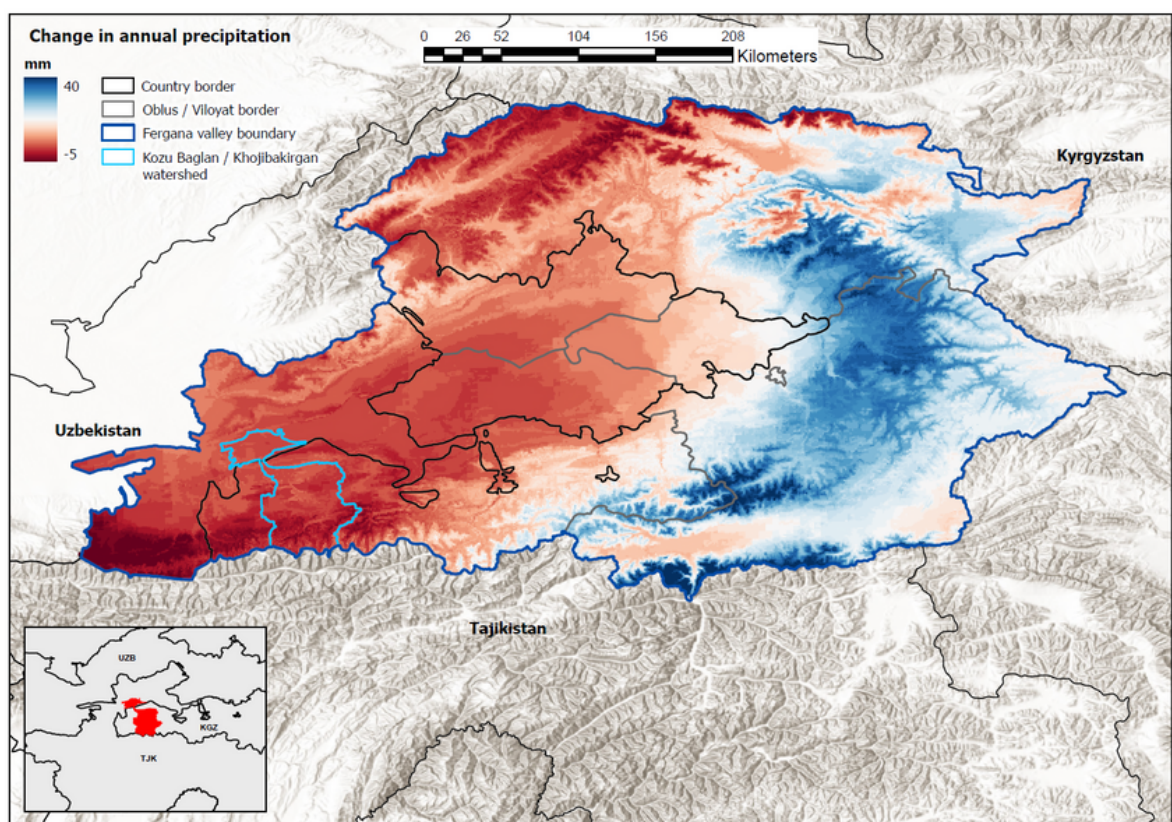


Fig 3: Watersheds of the Fergana Valley, by overall level of Water Stress, IMPACT, May 2023

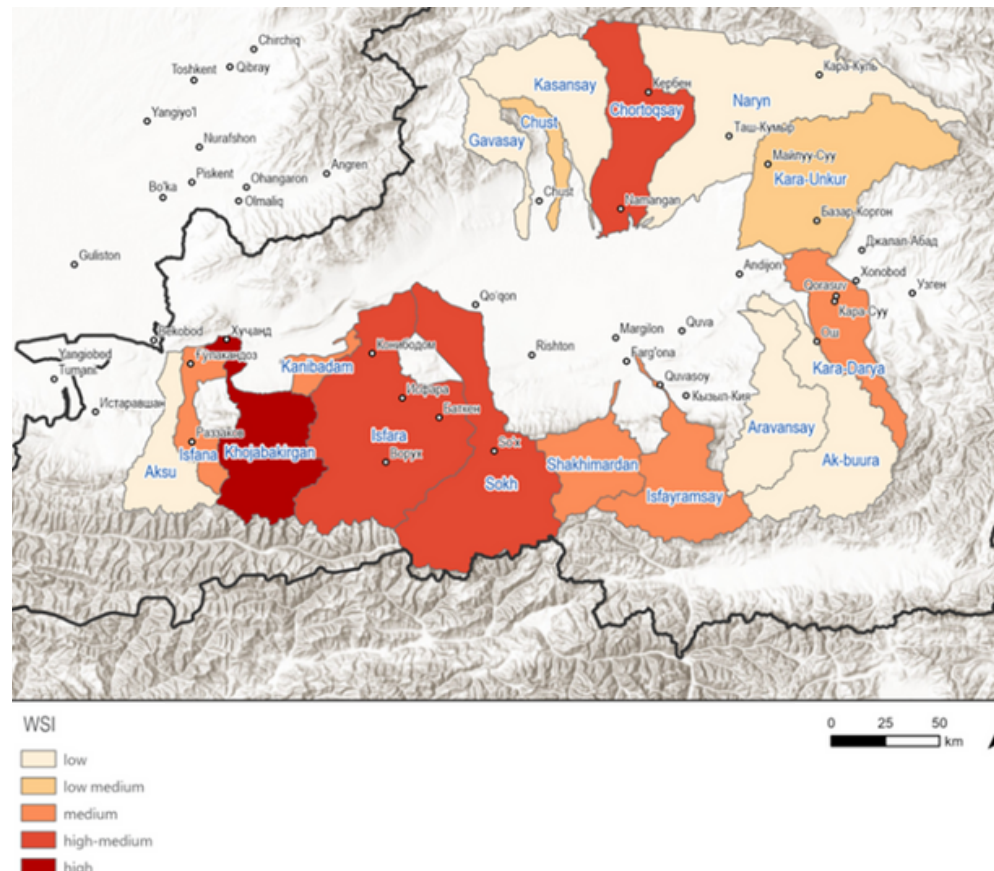


Fig 4: Change in degraded pasture lands in Kozu-Baglan/Khojibakirghan watershed, between 2000-2003 and 2019-2022, IMPACT, 2023

