



Memorandum of Cooperation

Between the Directorate General of Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve and the LakeNet Secretariat

Whereas the Directorate General of Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve is under the Forestry Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the LakeNet Secretariat is an NGO based in the United States with a network of more than 1,000 organizations and individuals, in more than 100 countries, working for the conservation and sustainable development of lakes;

Whereas Lake Issyk-Kul is a resource of national importance in Kyrgyz Republic, is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, and is designated as a Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations Man and the Biosphere Programme;

Whereas LakeNet has identified Lake Issyk-Kul as one of 250 lakes with globally important biodiversity and is working under a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Bureau;

Whereas the Directorate General of Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve and the LakeNet Secretariat find many points of common interest, the parties hereby express their intention to cooperate in this Memorandum with the aim of improving the conservation and sustainable development of Lake Issyk-Kul and its drainage basin.

Areas of Cooperation

1. To implement a Technical Cooperation Project through a small grant with funding from USAID under the auspices of the Lake Basin Management Initiative in 2003-2004 (Phase 1).
2. To jointly prepare a work plan and secure funding for conservation of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable development activities such as eco-tourism, as part of a longer term Technical Cooperation Project during 2004-2006 (Phase 2).
3. To share information and experience regarding lake management through the Biosphere Reserve Information Center, the LakeNet website, and exchanges and study tours.
4. To strengthen the capacity of Biosphere Reserve Directorate General and NGOs in the Lake Issyk-Kul basin.

Time Period

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall remain in force for a period of three (3) years from the date of signature by both parties.

The Memorandum may be extended upon written agreement by both parties.

Amendments and Termination

This Memorandum may be amended any time with the agreement of both parties and may be terminated at any time by written notice from either party.

Contacts

The contacts for this Memorandum are as follows:

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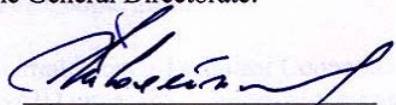
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Signed in two originals each in the Russian and the English languages,

For the General Directorate:

By:



Talapker Jakeshevich Tuldeberdiev
Director General

Date: 24 October 2003

For LakeNet:

By:



David Read Barker
President

Date: 24 October 2003