

Integrated Watershed Management in disaster-prone environments

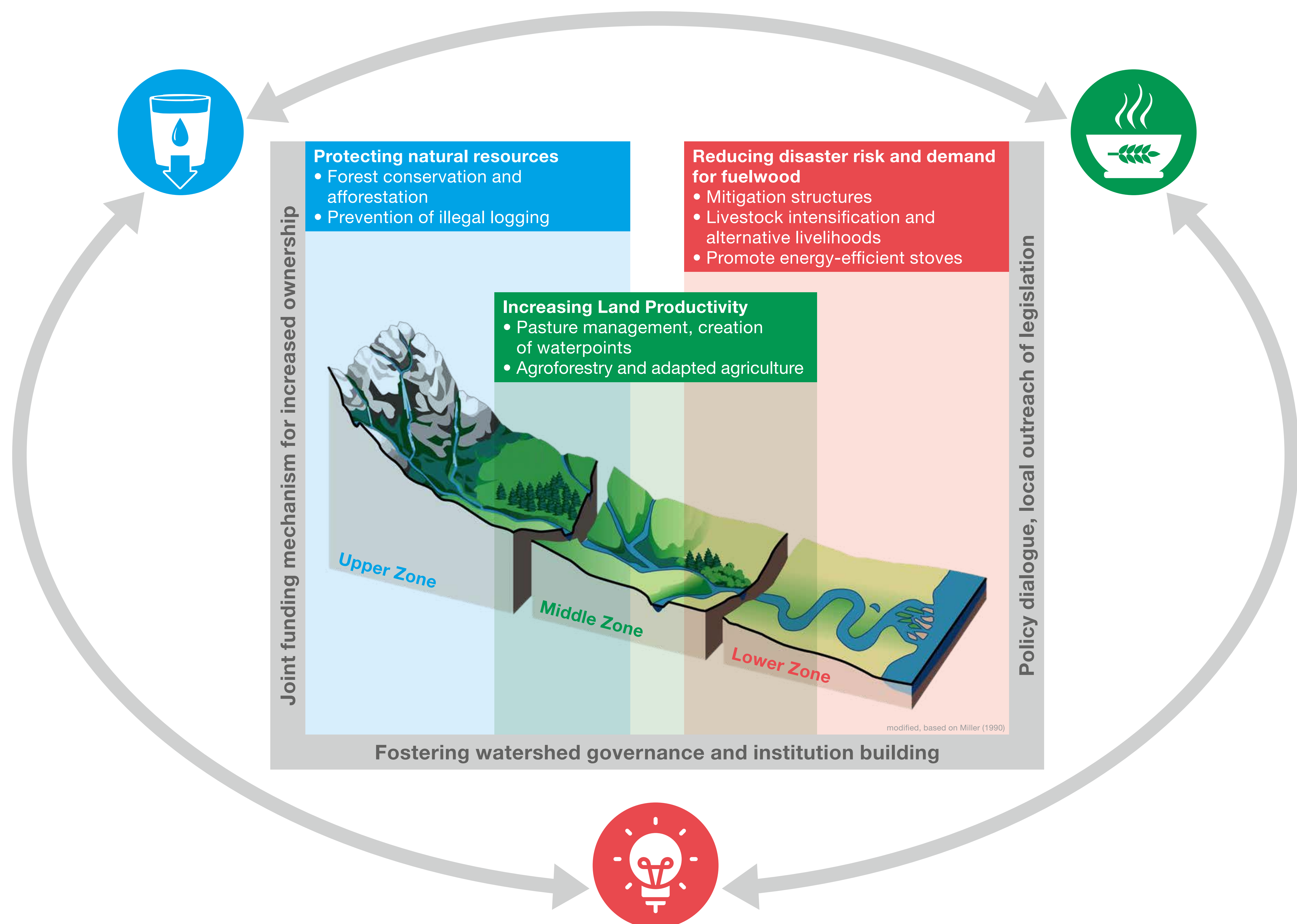
The nexus approach in practice in Muminabad district, Tajikistan

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Why we need a watershed approach in Muminabad, Tajikistan

In Eastern Khatlon province of Tajikistan, integrated crop-livestock production systems are one of the main sources of income for the rural population. Over 90 % of the population keep livestock, mainly as a safety net and to provide fuel (manure cakes).

The natural resource base is fast depleting: With no direct access to natural gas and frequent harsh winters, the rural population continues to cut trees and extensively uses wood for cooking and heating. This leads to the deforestation of the steep slopes; grazing livestock further degrades pasture land, and people are facing decreasing agricultural productivity and devastating flash floods.



Six years down the line: Challenges and achievements



- IWSM as an approach is **more than technical measures**: It depends on voluntary behaviour change, requiring long-term investments, awareness raising and options for alternative livelihoods
- Weak governance**, a prolonged transition to **decentralization**, as well as **nascent markets for agricultural commodities**, continue to challenge the adoption of sustainable land use



- Ownership** of IWSM-interventions has increased: The setup of a joint funding mechanism led to a contribution of people to technical measures up to 50 %
- Supported by the project, over 70 % of **Pasture User Unions (PUU)** received their **land certificates** from authorities, compared to 10 % in other regions
- Between 2014 and 2016, **livestock units in Muminabad district decreased** by 35 %, releasing pressure from degraded pastures and **cropland on slopes was reduced** by a stark 76 %.

