

**Opportunities and risks in reconciling conservation and development in a post-Soviet setting:
The example of the Tajik National Park**

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In the Tajik National Park (TNP) - a high-altitude area of nearly 26,000 km² in Central Asia - past and present human activities visibly contrast with standard conservation requirements for protected areas worldwide. This paper focuses on resource management, and highlights three major processes that threaten both the sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of nature per se:

- (i) intensified use of biomass as a fuel resource,
- (ii) inappropriate pasture management, and
- (iii) increased pressure on endangered wildlife.

From analysis of these processes - their historical background, root causes, trends and interrelationships - options and needs to improve park management are proposed and discussed.