

**UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**It is considered and approved by Coordination
Board on realization of CCD at
the Minister of Agriculture, Water Economy and
Process Industries
of the Kyrgyz Republic
April 22, 2002**

**REVISED NATIONAL REPORT
ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION**

Bishkek - 2002

I. Table of contents	
II. Introduction.....	4
Resume:	
III. The national plans and strategies existing in other social and economic fields...	5
IV. The legislative and institutional measures taken to implement the Convention.....	5-6
V. The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme	6
VI. The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the National Action Programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Partners and other interested entities	6-8
VII. The measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programme.....	8-10
VIII. Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation including their inflows. Processes to identify their requirements, areas of funding and setting priorities.....	10
IX. Review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment there of.....	10-11
 Agreement on cooperation with USAID (Annex 1)	
 Annexes:	
V-1. Pilot proposals on participation.	
VI-1. Pilot proposal on biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development (GTZ).	
VI-2. Pilot proposal on forest fires prevention (CIDA).	
VI-3. Pilot proposal on cooperation in CA in the interstate pasture use (GEF).	
VI-4. Pilot proposals for GEF Small Grant Programme.	
VI-5. Pilot proposal on integrate land and water resources management in upper watershed (WB).	

II. Abbreviations:

UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
CDF/NSPE	Comprehensive Development Framework; National Strategy of Poverty Eradication
CB/CCD	Coordination Board on UNCCD Implementation
NC/CCD	National Centre on the UNCCD Implementation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SRAP	Subregional Action Programme
TPN	Thematic Programme Networks
CA	Central Asia
WB	World Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
USAID	Agency of International Development of USA
CIDA	Canadian Agency on International Cooperation
GEF	Global Ecological Foundation
EC/TASIS	European Commission
GM	Global Mechanism
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note:

The words in italics indicate measures and needs of the country planned for future implementation or implemented after the first national report preparation.

II. Introduction. Conceptual basis of the UNCCD implementation in Kyrgyzstan

Currently desertification for mountain Kyrgyzstan is:

- water erosion as a result of irrigation and precipitation on slope lands, salinization and swamping in lowlands;
- overgrazing of pastures, overgrowing and forest fires on former distant pastures;
- felling down of forests for fuel and as a consequence, wind erosion, landslides, decrease of water potential of upper watershed.

The main reasons of these phenomena are:

- economic inconsistency to accept sufficient adequate measures, not absence of awareness of the population and governmental bodies;
- more measures are taken at governmental level, but now there is sharp necessity to find ways of inclusion to combating bottom level participants.

Despite of existence of the general recommendations on Convention implementation, each country should find the shorter way.

For example, in Kyrgyzstan which is carrying out real management decentralization, and accepted institutes of private property on land and local self-administration, management through state authorities becomes less effective.

It will be more effective to start pilot activities through self-administration bodies, village committees only on places, where really occurs desertification, and on their example to lead up to the people Convention ideas.

Pilot projects should start on an example of concrete administrative unit, area, for example, river basin, mountain village.

It is necessary to turn from local problems, experience of their solution to more scale state organizational and legislative decisions and recommendations. Many efforts and funds would be spent and a little is made for a concrete problem on places if to begin from top level, from the Ministries and capital NGOs.

Therefore administration bodies and nongovernmental organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic show the political consent in issues of Convention implementation and consider that the main priorities in this area are:

- Strengthening institutes of public natural resources management;
- Increase of economic opportunities of rural population for combating desertification (poverty alleviation).

The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification aimed to policy on combating desertification implementation, and also for orientation of donor agencies in direction of activities support in Kyrgyzstan is developed on these principles.

The NAP rules are conformable with the formulation of sustainable development concept for Kyrgyzstan, risen at the UNDP – Ministry of Ecology workshop in March, 2002 on the preparation of the National Report to Rio + 10:

The sustainable development for Kyrgyzstan is a choice of directions of economic development based on use of:

- Unique natural gifts of highland-lowland ecosystems; (water-power resources, recreation parks, fantastic landscapes, Alpine meadows, development of yak breeding, beekeeping, phyto-business etc.).
- Geostrategic situation and achieved geopolitical image (doctrine of Silk Road, WTO membership, democracy leader, continuous search and initiatives);
- Old-kyrgyz mentality and modern intellectual potential (three millennial history and wisdom of ancestors, traditional hospitality, first-rate persons and information technologies).

Resume

III. National plans and strategies existing in other social and economic fields

The State Programme on Land for the period till 2005, providing the following:

- Development of full land databank;
- Development and introduction of land resources management system.

National Environment Action Plan (NEAP), approved in 1996.

NEAP would be updated with TACIS support.

Araket National Programme on Poverty Reduction.

Combating with poverty is a long-term strategic task, on which the success of reforms and socio-economic development of the country depends according to the National Strategy on Poverty Reduction.

The Forest State Program for the period till 2005 is aimed to increase the forest plants percent from 4,2 % to 7-10 of %.

Comprehensive Development Framework for Kyrgyz Republic for the period till 2010.

CDF implementation provides achievement of the following main indicators:

- Two times increase of GDP by 2010 compared to 1998;
- Three times decrease poverty level; the country by level not less than 30 %;
- Decrease of annual rate of inflation up to 3-5 %;
- Overcoming of deficiency of the state budget.

IV. The legislative and institutional measures taken to implement the Convention

The existing legislation under legal framework of which it is necessary to implement the UNCCD is following:

- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Enacting of the Land Code of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 2 June 1999 No 46
- Resolution of Government Kyrgyz Republic on Agricultural Lands Monitoring of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 1 March 1999 No 115
- Provision on Agricultural Lands Monitoring of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Forest Code of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 8 July 1999 No 66
- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Peasant (individual) Farms dated 3 June 1999 No 47
- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Local Self-administration and Local State Administration in the Kyrgyz Republic dated 19 April 1991 No 437-XII
- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa dated 21 July 1999.
- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Environment Protection dated 16 June 1999 No 53
- Law of Kyrgyz Republic on Water Users Associations dated 15 March 2002 No 35

The Coordination Board (CB) CCD in Kyrgyzstan was established under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry, the structure of CB, including the representatives of the ministries and nongovernmental organizations is determined at the First National Forum, 2-3 November 1999.

The functions of the National Centre on the UNCCD Implementation in Kyrgyzstan (NCCD)

(executive body) were given to Kyrgyz Irrigation Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry of Kyrgyz Republic for coordination of activities on combating desertification in country.

The proposal on establishment of the multiple-discipline Centre on desertification and complex melioration issues is discussed on the basis of Irrigation Institute.

The country need is donor support for the National Centre under Irrigation Institute for financial opportunity of current activities implementation. The unstable local budget does not allow to maintain necessary staff and to pay for communication services.

V. The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme

The definition of the representatives from various social and institutional categories was made under principle of affiliation to various issues.

The main executors of NAP are farmers; farms and peasant farms, agricultural cooperatives, NGOs, women and youth organizations, local self-administration bodies.

The administration at the level of national and regional centres has become inconvenient in view of introduction of land private property and institutes of local self-administration, complexity of the transport connection at territorial dissociation by mountain ridges. Therefore National information strategy for operative communication through E-mail and Internet, both between separate areas of the country, and with the external world is developed.

The Irrigation Institute – NCCD has developed and supports www.water.kg WEB-site, which the Coordination Body of CCD planned to use as information centre on the UNCCD implementation under support of USAID.

At present all rayon and oblast structures of Department of Water Resources are equipped with computers under the Irrigation Systems Rehabilitation Project (WB). The Irrigation Institute will connect E-mail and Internet for establishment of operative communication between Centre and periphery of the country at the assistance of FAO.

The following three pilot projects on extension of participation with using information technologies are developed: (Annex V-1)

- *Information system of agricultural producers support;*
- *Connection of Kyrgyz rural periphery to information network for improvement of economic base, education and culture;*
- *Increase of rural population access to agroecological information through mass media.*

VI. The consultative process in support for the preparation and implementation of the National Action Programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Partners and other interested entities

The consultative process on the UNCCD implementation is going on in Kyrgyzstan after approval of NAP on December 8, 2000.

The work on inclusion of elements and priorities of NAP/CCD into other national and subregional sustainable development plans is organized. The National Centre CCD participates and promotes CCD ideas in:

- *Development of strategy and action plan on development of mountain territories (ADB project);*
- *Coordination Board under the Prime Minister on development of tourism in Kyrgyzstan (initiative of GTZ);*
- *Working group of the Ministry of Ecology on developing of National report on*

Sustainable Development to Rio + 10 (support of UNDP);

- *Development of the Regional Environment Action Plan in CA, Land Degradation section (UNEP, UNDP, ADB);*
- *Work of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia.*

Three experts from Kyrgyzstan took part in the GTZ/ZEL training course in Tashkent - Samarkand in 2001 on developing of pilot projects.

The Kyrgyz Republic requires financial support from the donors for commencement of such pilot projects, which will promote improvement of economic situation in rural area, where desertification processes are going on basically. People can use part of income for ecological measures as forest conservation, improvement of pastures, irrigation methods etc only in such situation.

As to motivation of the rural inhabitants to investment in ecological technologies, the introduction of institutes of local self-administration and private property on land has increase responsibility of the population for quality of environment they live in. Lack of financial and technical opportunities can be the only limiting factor. Such conclusions are received also at development of the National Report of Kyrgyzstan to Rio + 10, Subregional Environment Action Plan of CA, in which NCCD participated actively.

*With assistance of the CCD Secretary and Global Mechanism of CCD,
and also on the base of Partnership Agreement between
GM, ADB, GTZ, CIDA the below-mentioned advices is carrying out:*

To GM is requested a financial support for three Pilot projects for the Sustainable management of transboundary ecosystems in the CA and Information support of agriculture products producers, including of marketing and selling the agriculture products (Appendix V-1).

Going on a negotiation process between the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Economy and Process Industries of KR and the Japanese part about opening of the project on village marketing with the budget of 599 thousand US \$.

The support of GM CCD at this stage would be very important.

The Pilot project is offered in frameworks of CDF/NSPE (section 1)

Consultation with GTZ/BMZ

The agreed decision that Kyrgyzstan would start from the project on mountain ecosystem conservation and ecotourism, connected with announcement of year 2001 as Year of Tourism and year 2002 as Year of Mountains, meeting the concept of restoration of ancient Silk Road and future important role of tourism branch for national economy is accepted at the meeting of the Ministers of Central Asia in 2001 (under GTZ support) on discussion of the Subregional Action Plan.

Development of project on ecotourism was subject to study for Kyrgyz group at the GTZ/ZEL seminar in Tashkent.

On behalf of Mr. N. Tanaev, First Vice Prime-Minister the prepared project proposal is submitted to Mrs. Uschi Eid, Parliamentary State Secretary with coping to UNCCD Secretariat, Mr. G. Winkler and to local GTZ Office in Kyrgyzstan. The project proposal on ecotourism development also is given by Kyrgyz delegation to the representatives of Switzerland, Finland and Japan at COP 4. (Annex VI-1)

Consultation with CIDA

Central Asian CIDA office in Almaty has opened a number of grant programs on the local initiatives and climate change.

The project proposal on improvement of mountain pastures use is prepared and submitted to

the CIDA in connection with sharp problem overgrowing of distant unused pastures and quick forest fires on mountain slopes. (Annex VI-2)

Consultation with ESCAP, UNEP, GEF

ESCAP (Prof. Pak Sum Low) renders consultative support in preparation and facilitating together with UNEP and GEF the Subregional Project on Biodiversity Conservation at Interstate Use of Pasture-forest Resources for five Central Asia countries at the request of the NCCD in Kyrgyzstan. All five CA National Coordinators have demonstrated interest in the present project with the purpose of restoration of economic cooperation through this area, which was urgent during the Soviet Union period. (Annex VI-3)

Consultation with UNDP/GEF

The GEF Small Grants Program (up to US\$50,000) accessible for NGOs and local communities is open at local UNDP Office in Bishkek in the beginning of 2002.

Three applications from the list of pilot projects of NAP/CCD for participation in the first round of competition are sent.

There would be also work on preparation of the applications for the second round till August, 2002 (Annex VI-4)

Consultation with WB

The WB projects were developed under the Program 6 on «Integrated Land and Water Resources Management in Upper Watershed of the Aral sea basin», and also under the Programs 3.1.A. on «Assessment and Water Quality Management» and 3.1.B. on «Improvement of Quality of Agricultural Water» under management of WB in 1995-1997.

The Irrigation Institute was executor of these projects from Kyrgyzstan.

WB Mission lead by Mr. Denis Tray visited Kyrgyzstan in order to determine the reasons for poverty of country population, including Fergana valley, Aral Sea basin.

The National Coordinator has addressed local World Bank Office with proposal to consider an opportunity to start these projects for the solution of some problems of poverty connected with desertification. (Annex VI-5)

Consultation with USAID

The Agreement on partnership between Irrigation Institute (NCCD) and USAID Natural Resources Management Project in five Central Asia countries (NRMP) is made.

Opening of the www.water.kg WEB-site on water resources is carried out due to support of USAID and Mr. J. O'Kif, Ambassador of USA in Kyrgyzstan. This Web-site could perform also functions of information centre of Coordination body on the UNCCD implementation in Kyrgyzstan. (Annex VI-6)

VII. The measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programmes (planned measures are marked in italics)

The following completed, ongoing and planned projects refer to Government measures connected with solution of socio-economic problems, including desertification:

On a credit basis:

- Irrigation Systems Rehabilitation Project is aimed to increase of agricultural production and irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation (International Development Association – US\$35 mln.);

- On-farm Irrigation Project is aimed to increase of crop production through equitable and sustainable water distribution (International Development Association – US\$ 20 mln.);
- Agricultural Area Development Project (Chui oblast) includes improvement of meliorative condition of lands (ADB – US\$ 36 mln.);
- Sheep Development Project is aimed to increase profitability and efficiency of sheep breeding and wool production, increase efficiency of natural pasture use and conservation (International Development Association – US\$11,58 mln., International Fund for Agricultural Development - 3,5 mln.);
- Agricultural Support Services Project (International Development Association – US\$14,98 mln., International Fund of Agricultural Development – US\$7,9 mln.);
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is aimed to restore and improve water supply and sanitary systems in the settlements and small towns in Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas oblasts (International Development Association – US\$15 mln.);
- Project on Infrastructure Services at Settlements Level is aimed at institutional strengthening and rehabilitation of water supply sources in villages and small towns, sanitary issues, mini-power plants, rural roads, floods control. Chui, Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts (ADB – US\$ 36 mln.);
- *Second Agricultural Area Development Project (Chui oblast) (ADB – US\$ 30 mln., 2003-2009);*
- *Rural development. Poverty reduction. Main attention will be given to issues on poverty reduction under the strategy of poverty alleviation accepted by ADB (ADB – US\$40 mln., 2002-2008);*

On a grant basis:

- Development of Water Users Associations Project. Objective is capacity building on establishment and management of water users associations (ADB – US\$ 0,9 mln.);
- Agricultural Area Development Project (Chui oblast) (ADB – US\$ 0,8 mln.);
- Project on Infrastructure Services at Settlements Level (ADB – US\$ 0,6 mln.);
- *The second Agricultural Area Development Project (Chui oblast) (ADB – US\$ 0,7 млн.);*
- *Rural development. Poverty Reduction (ADB – US\$ 0,65 mln.);*
- On-farm Irrigation Pilot Project (FAO – US\$ 0,4 mln.);
- Training on land use issues (Know-How Foundation, Great Britain – US\$ 0,3 mln.);
- The National Irrigation Rehabilitation Strategy and Action Plan (EC / TACIS - 0,2 mln. ECU);
- Land Reform Project. The activities of the project are focused on the interconnected spheres of land reform in village, land reform in cities, water users rights and aspects a post privatization and agrobusiness (USAID – US\$ 1,0 mln.);

- The Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situation of Kyrgyz Republic jointly with the GTZ implement the Basic Directions of Ecologically Oriented Planning of Socio-economic Development of Issyk-Kul Oblast Project («Biosphere Reserve Issyk-Kul»).

The creation of biosphere territory in Issyk-Kul oblast is the national contribution of Kyrgyzstan to XXI century. This shows responsibility of Kyrgyz Republic to the neighboring states, whose vital basis are the reserves of fresh water of great and gray Khan Tengri - Tien-Shan.

- The Swiss Agency on Development and Cooperation (SDC) finances the Dom Gor program with monthly actions on mountain production, energy, tourism, water resources, mountain villages, climate change, land use.

SDC finances also the Central Asian Mountain Partnership Program (CAMP).

Development of tourism based on communities project. (Helvetas).

Measures planned under the NAP/CCD:

1. Measures on reduction of external debts through implementation of projects on combating desertification.

2. Preparation and promotion of the complex projects on combating desertification, starting from projects (item. VI) directed on creation of economic opportunities of rural population for ecological actions.

VIII. Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation including their inflows. Processes to identify their requirements, areas of funding and setting priorities

Local financing.

At present financing of scientific researches on monitoring of irrigation land salinization processes is made for NAP/CCD implementation from the national budget.

The amount of financial and technical assistance within the framework of other national programs is shown in item. VII.

US\$ 450,000 is allocated for 9 CA countries on a line of ADB Regional Technical Assistance Project (RETA), while Germany has allocated about US\$ 1.5 million for UNCCD implementation in Asia, including CA countries. GM has allocated US\$ 100,000 for the SRAP process. Other funds, for example funds of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), also will be accessible in cash. Further activities will be extended in cooperation with GM, GTZ/CCD and CIDA within the framework of Partnership, in particular through CIDA Foundation on support of climate change for Southern Europe and Central Asia.

The financial support in amount of US\$ 100,000 was allocated through the GM Program for training and exchange of experience among communities for NGOs involved in the GTZ/CCD project, for mobilization of NGOs activities and traditional institutes in region.

The following resolutions in COP4/3/Add 9 are urgent for Kyrgyzstan: B (d) strengthening of the program on debt facilitation considering environment protection for debt repayment A (f). Now the materials on implementation of this opportunity are being developed under the initiative of the Ministry of Ecology of Kyrgyz Republic.

The majority of the credit projects implemented directly or indirectly by Kyrgyzstan connected to protection and improvement of natural resources condition (item. VII) also can be considered as environment protective for reduction of debt.

The areas of the necessary financial assistance are shown in items IV and VI.

The updating and amending of NAP, organization of the second National Forum after Rio + 10 are required also in connection with dynamical progress of reforms, creation of new formations on public natural resources management.

IX. Review of benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment there of

The general environment monitoring is carried out by Department of Ecology and Environment Monitoring of the Ministry of Ecology of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The monitoring of the land resources condition is carried out by the Institute of the State

Land Register.

For the monitoring of the land condition is created the Water Inspection under Department of Water Economy.

Principal using of arable land and pastures is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Economy.

The local structures of the State Forest Service have supervising a condition of forests. The National Center to combat desertification under Coordination Board of CCD makes the review of the activity of various Ministries on problems of land degradation and desertification, including activities in frame of the international projects.