

**STATE COMMITTEE FOR LAND MANAGEMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**



**RESUME
NATIONAL REPORT**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

DUSHANBE – 2006

ii) The summary of the land degradation an matters in the country

The problem of land degradation and desertification every year gets the increasing urgency. The basic driving factors of desertification are change of a climate, cutting down of woods, wrong methods of irrigation, an overexploitation of the agricultural lands and overgrazing.

All these factors have led to decrease in a standard of living of the population. The low level of incomes has caused strengthening negative consequences of land degradation and desertification.

Despite of riches of water resources and high moisture of some areas, the part of territory of Tajikistan is borrowed with deserts. Up to 40-50 % of East Pamir, the small areas (30-40 thousand hectares) southern and northern Tajikistan in a lower reaches of the rivers Pjandzh, Vakhsh, Kafirnigan and Syr-Darya here concern. Natural desertification is traced in many natural zones that are connected with position of Tajikistan among large deserts of the Euroasian continent - Gobi, Kara Kum, Kyzyl Kum and Taklamakan.

There are strong and weaknesses in each country during the realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification which depend on complexes of social and economic, political, ecological and other factors. The analysis of the Republic Tajikistan economy development for last years shows, that as a result of the measures accepted by the government on realization of structural transformations in economy and acceleration of economic reforms, will reach essential growth on a number of economic parameters, that positively influences on realization of the National Action Program to combat desertification. The strengths of the country in relation to realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification, first of all, depend on behaviour of the state bodies, financing of actions on struggle against land degradation, etc. To increase the strengths for realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification by the government a number of the vital problems and first of all greater acceleration of process of economic transformations, strengthenings of the further development of various patterns of ownership in all spheres, including measures on struggle against desertification, overcoming of a drought and other kinds disasters and increase the standards of living of the population within the framework of sustainable development policy are solved.

The strengths:

- in August 12, 1997 Republic Tajikistan has officially joined the UN Convention to combat desertification;
- in December, 1998 the UN Convention to combat desertification has been ratified by the Decree No 1144 of the President of the country;
- the National Action Program to combat desertification is prepared;
- series of National seminars in various regions of the country on different problems of desertification with various layers of the population, including women and youth are lead;
- there was held the Second National Forum with attraction of the state, public and nongovernmental organizations;
- there are taken following measures which also enter into strengths of UN Convention to combat desertification realization:

– The Program of economic transformations of agricultural complex for 1995-2003. There are accepted a number of Decrees of the President and the Governmental orders according to this program, such as: Decrees «About reorganization of the agricultural enterprises and the organizations», «About measures to increase of soil fertility, to preservation and improvement of environment» and many other things;

- Under the initiative of the President of the country and support of the population with a view of preservation, duplication of forest resources and struggle against desertification, since 1993 to the present, actions on gardening are annually spent;
- With the purpose of preservation and rational use of lands, stay of land degradation and overcomings of desertification the governmental order of the country No 294 «About the state control over use and protection of the lands in Republic Tajikistan» is accepted in 1997;
- With the purpose of perfection of system of nature protection education and transition to qualitatively new level of a professional training and education of the population concerning preservation of the environment and its rational use, in 1996 the government accepts the Program of ecological education of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan till 2000 and on prospect till 2010. In this Program the great value is given also to education of a society concerning struggle against desertification and to overcoming of a drought;
- With a view of maintenance of rational use of natural resources of the country, maintenance of an optimum condition of the lands, pastures, forests, water resources, atmospheric air, a condition of biological balance, protection of rare and disappearing kinds of flora and fauna, improvement of health of the population by the Government the State Ecological Program for 1998 - 2008 is accepted;
- With a view of preservation of the irrigated lands from salinisation and process of desertification in a zone of irrigated agriculture, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan accepts the Program on meliorative improvement of the irrigated lands for 1998-2003;
- With a view of satisfaction of needs of the population and the national economy of republic in grain and grain products, increasing of a level of food security of the country, in 2000 the Government accepts the Program of increasing of grain crops productivity and increasing in manufacture of grain in the Republic of Tajikistan in 2001-2005;
- For overcoming a level of recession of development of an agriculture and duly acceptance of measures on improvement of this branch with the purpose of increasing of production volume in 2000 the Intermediate term program crisis recovery of agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan and priority directions of strategy of development of its branches for the period till 2005 is accepted;
- With a view of elimination of infectious growth and other illnesses and stay of deterioration of health of the population, especially in countryside, the Government of the country in 2001 accepts the Concept of reform of public health services of the Republic of Tajikistan. Before the Program of reforms in public health services of the Republic of Tajikistan till 2001 has been accepted;
- For overcoming process of desertification in the country and in conformity to the context of the UN Convention to combat desertification in the country the Governmental order No 598 «About the acceptance of the National Action Program (NAP) to combat desertification» was accepted on December, 30th, 2001. This program is the basic document of the country to combat desertification;
- The Document of Strategy of poverty reduction (DSPR) is approved.

All these undertaken steps testify to concern of the Government of the country on preservation of natural resources and strengthening of struggle against desertification in the Republic of Tajikistan and are strengths in realization of the basic ideas of the UN Convention to combat desertification.

Its initiative in the decision of problems of desertification and acceptance of measures on its simplification is one of the cores as all reasonable decisions should be scientifically proved. One of the most strengths of realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification – is the scientific potential. In Tajikistan there is an experience of the scientifically-proved actions on struggle against desertification, and also, the control over them. For this purpose a number of scientific research institutes which were engaged in studying of various methods of overcoming of land degradation and mapping of desertification zones have been created. Besides there was conducted the supervision over degradation of pastures by means of geobotanical inspections. All these actions basically, were financed by the state budget.

Except above mentioned strengths in republic there is a powerful source of realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification – the local communities and the nongovernmental organizations. Realization of some actions on struggle against desertification in the form of *khushar* (voluntary joint activity of the population), is well proved method of attraction of wide layers of the population, including women, youth and even children.

Alongside with strengths in realization of the UN Convention to combat desertification in Tajikistan are available as well weaknesses:

- insufficient financing;
- shortage of the literature on basic ideas UNCCD on national language;
- insufficient attention from the international organizations;
- weak coordination between the state bodies which were deal with various problems of desertification;
- absence of monitoring;
- weak knowledge of wide layers of the population on basic ideas of UNCCD in Tajikistan;
- weak development of technical base;
- non-observance of traditional methods of struggle against desertification;
- absence of an opportunity of rational use of natural resources for local population;
- non rational use natural resources by the local population;
- insufficient conducting explanatory work with local population.

It is necessary to note, that the society in figurative expression plays the main role in sustainable development of the country. On the one hand the society can reveal itself from a strength, i.e. the behaviour it can suspend erosive processes, raise soil fertility, increase the forests area, reduce development of dynamic processes, rational use the resources, etc.; with another – the society is weakness in realization of UNCCD, i.e. to strengthen development of desertification.

Tajikistan has joined the UN Convention to combat desertification according to which, seminars are lead, and the National Action Program to combat desertification is developed and approved. In the State Ecological Program the measures on prevention of erosive processes on various regions of Tajikistan are stipulated.

Legislatively, the problems of desertification are considered within the framework of land protection from degradation in the Land Code. This document stipulates sanctions for the irrational use of the land resources which have caused development of erosion, salinisation and

bogging of soils. In the Law on bowels the norms of land tenure are established at conducting mountain works. Mechanisms of consecutive land recultivation are stipulated at extraction from bowels of minerals. The Law on wildlife management obligates the nature users to provide safety and rational use of land resources.

Numerous efforts on prevention of land degradation are accepted by the government; however serious deficiency of financing does not allow realizing all complex of the planned measures. Attraction of target international investments and increase in budgetary financing is required.

The basic directions of actions on improvement of the land resources conditions, decreasing the risk of soil degradation and prevention of consequences of desertification are:

- establishment of requirements to a pasturable turn, grazing of public, farmer and private cattle;
- definition of requirements and criteria of use of the lands of steep slopes, and prohibition of their illegal and unreasonable use;
- introduction of soil- and water-saving methods of an irrigation;
- restoration of collector-drainage networks;
- protection, restoration and expansion of the area of large forests;
- improvement of high-mountainous pastures and planting of bushes vegetation;
- providing access of rural population, especially in mountain regions, to alternative (renewed) energy sources;
- monitoring of the desertification process;
- development of recommendations and instructions on rational land tenure;
- increasing of the role of local population and communities in struggle against land degradation and desertification.

Considering, that on a problem of desertification all complex of the basic environmental problems influences: change of a climate, cutting down of woods, losses of a biodiversity, degradation of water resources the development of the National Action Plan on preservation of the environment (NAPPE), combining the integrated approach is very actual. Also perfection of the legislation on the given problem is necessary.

Now the significant areas of semi deserted - deserted ecosystems are alienated for cultivation of agricultural products and in their territory it is observed the overgrazing. Here the high degree of a fragmentation in view of development of an automobile high system is observed. Processes of land degradation also break balance of this ecosystem.

Middle mountain ecosystems are used for rein fed crops. It quite often causes soil erosion and is accompanied by clearing of the additional lands. There is also a big influence of cutting down of woods, overgrazing, gathering of herbs and development of the mining industry. More than 40 various mines, pits and mountain manufactures are located in this zone, thus actions on land recultivation are not spent.

The ecosystems of reservoirs as a result of seasonal fluctuation of a water level, mainly in water basins, appear subject to influence of erosion of a coastal line, as for example, in area of Nurek water basin. Degradation of these ecosystems occurs in view of available flow of the rivers and pollution of reservoirs.

There are observed the negative tendencies in high-mountainous ecosystems under influence of overgrazing, grubbing of bushes vegetation in last years. Poaching on rare representatives of fauna takes place: archar, snow leopard, Siberian wild goat, etc.

In bottom zone of highest tops in places of climbing and tourist camps, thousand tons of household waste, fragments of technics and equipment are left. It considerably reduces recreational value and appeal of these ecosystems. Besides the increasing influence on a condition of these ecosystems renders the global climate warming therefore their area tends to reduction.

Constantly increases the influence on historical landscapes. Many monuments of history, archeology and ethnography have appeared much mentioned and now require protection more and more. It concerns rock drawing of the Stone Age on Pamir, traces of ancient metallurgists in Shirkent and Adrasman, sites of ancient settlement of Penjikent, Gissar and other objects.

Tajikistan ratified a number of the international conventions, including the UN Convention of on a biological variety, the UN Convention to combat desertification, Ramsar Convention about water-marsh lands, the Convention on preservation of migrating of wild animals. All this is good preconditions for harmonization of ecosystems protection of Tajikistan and all central-Asian region.

Institutionally, the State committee on nature protection and forestry, the State committee for land management, local authorities, administrations of reserves, areas protection, the historian-natural and national parks is engaged in protection of ecosystems.

Within the framework of realization of the State Ecological Program measures on restoration of vulnerable landscape complexes on separate ecological areas of Tajikistan are stipulated. In developed of National strategy and action plan on preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity it is applied highly effective ecosystem approach to realization of reciprocal measures.

For ordering a state policy in the field of wildlife management and with a view of increasing of a level of public consciousness and formation on these questions in republic are developed and approved State Ecological Program of the Republic of Tajikistan (1996) and the State program of ecological education of population of the Republic of Tajikistan (1997).

The state documents under the decision of the most important environmental problems are developed: the National Action Plan on hygiene of an environment (2000), the National Action Program to combat desertification (2001), the National program and action plan on the termination of use ozone-destroying substances (2001), National strategy on public health care (2002), National Action Plan on mitigation of consequences of climate change and the First National Report on climate change (2002). The National report on sustainable development (2002) is prepared. The National strategy and plan of action on preservation of a biodiversity (2003) is at the stage of completion. The republic takes part in development of the Subregional Action Plan on environment protection.

Considering the urgency of global environmental problems and their close communication with local conditions and a condition of an environment, the republic has joined and ratified a number of the major international agreements, including:

- Vienna Convention on protection of an ozone cloud (1996);
- Montreal Protocol on the substances destroying of ozone cloud (1997);
- UN Convention on biological diversity (1997);
- UN Convention to combat desertification (1997);
- UN Framework Convention on climate change (1998);
- Ramsar Convention on wetlands protection (2000);
- Convention on preservation of wild animals migrating (2000);

- Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice concerning in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention) (2001);
- Stockholm Convention on proof organic pollutants (POPS) (2002).

The national report is prepared on the basis of the Guide submitted by Secretary of the UN Convention to combat desertification where all necessary information on the Republic of Tajikistan is presented.