

PRESS RELEASE



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Launch of Effort to Reduce the Impact of Climate Hazards

12 November, 2015 – Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The unusually warm weather and flooding earlier in 2015 highlight the threat that climate-related disasters pose to Tajikistan. Recognizing this threat, the Committee for Environmental Protection (CoEP), Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held a workshop on the integration of climate change adaptation into policies and activities to reduce disaster risk in Tajikistan on 12 November 2015.



The Deputy Chair, Committee for Environmental Protection, Ms. Oihon Sharipova opened the workshop and underlined that “in comparison with other countries of the Eurasian region, Tajikistan is one of the most vulnerable to climate change effects and recent research findings which predict intense temperature rising increases the risk of natural disasters such as flooding and mudflows”. For his part, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Ghulam Isaczai, underlined that scientists predict an intensification of the climate change impacts and that developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focused on disaster risk reduction is the first step to creating the conditions for a safer, more prosperous Tajikistan resilient to climate change.

The workshop involved the participation of 55 representatives from the Government, national and international NGOs, and international agencies and development organizations. The workshop focused on identifying priority areas, gaps and needs for a DRR-focused national adaptation planning process, with a priority placed on addressing mudflows, floods and similar climate hazards. The sector-specific NAP focusing on flood risk reduction and other climate-related hazards will complement the broader National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy being developed by Tajikistan with support from Asian Development Bank.

Presentations at the workshop covered:

- DRR and Climate Change, DRR policies, by C. Kelly, DRR and Recovery Advisor, Disaster Risk Management Programme, UNDP Tajikistan.
- Climate Change Scenarios in Tajikistan, by N. Minikulov, Independent Expert.
- Strategy of Tajikistan on Disaster Risk Management 2010-2015, by Colonel J. Kamalov, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan.
- National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, by F. Saidov, National Expert.
- Overview of NAP Support and Sector-Specific NAP Process, by B. Tonkonogy, NAP Global Support Program Advisor, UNDP Global Climate Change Adaptation program.
- A Successful NAP Process, by Dr. A. Druta, Project Manager, Supporting Moldova’s National Climate Change Adaptation Planning Process, UNDP Moldova.
- Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, by J. Hasanov, PPCR Secretariat Tajikistan.
- DRR and Climate Change Adaptation, by R. Hoffman, Mercy Corps.
- Experiences of Climate Change and Adaptation – Oxfam Field Research, by M. Aliberdiyeva, Oxfam.
- Outline of roadmap & next steps by N. Olofinskaya and B. Tonkonogy, UNDP.

During the workshop, the following key points emerged:

- Reducing vulnerability to climate change is important to Tajikistan's development. A National Adaptation Planning process will support this outcome by focusing on integration of adaptation into disaster risk reduction policies, programmes, and activities in the medium to long term.
- Data collection, accessibility and quality on climate-related hazards and effects of disasters on livelihoods need to be improved to better inform strategy and projects.
- Several strategies at the national level will help inform the work of the National Adaptation Plan, including National Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2010-2015, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and National Development Strategy.
- It will be important to determine a coordination mechanism for a National Adaptation Planning process. Several were suggested at the workshop, including the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Many participants noted the importance of focusing on the role of women in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, particularly given labor migration.
- Financial resources, including from new sources such as the Green Climate Fund, should have a focus on reducing the risk of climate-related hazards.

For more details, including presentations, please follow the below link:

http://www.untj.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=132&Itemid=565

Contact Information: Parviz Saidov, Project Analyst (Tel.: +992 (44) 6005922, E-mail: parviz.said@undp.org)

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