

MINUTES

of discussions on the draft NAP with the key stakeholders in the field of climate issues and emergencies in the country

August 12, 2021

№2

city of Dushanbe

Meeting was attended by:

Saidov V.Y., Eshonov A., Saidov M.S., Asoev H., Mirakhmadova Z., Pirov S.M., Toshev M., Ergashev M.C., Salimov S., Aminov S., Yuldasheva N, Sharipov H., Davlatalii M., Saidov S.M., Yokubov C., Saifutdinova M.B., Shoeva N., Rakhimov L.H., Saifidinov S.Z., Kurbonov M., Abdurakhimov B,

Speakers:

Opening remarks were delivered by: **Vaysidin Saidov** - Director of the Tajik branch of Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and **Anvar Eshonov** - representative of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Saidov M.S. has made a presentation on the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of impact caused by Sand and Dust Storms (hereinafter referred to as the NAP on SDS). (Leading national expert on sand and dust storms) **(the report is attached)**.

The questions were asked by:

A. Eshonov, Chief Specialist of CEP under the Government of Tajikistan,
Yokubov C., editor-in-chief, Inson va Tabiat,
Sh. Aminov, Academy of Agricultural Sciences
H. Sharipov CEP, Consultant
et al.

Presentation

Ergashev M.Ch., (Leading national expert on droughts)

As a part of development of NAP on SDS, the authors of the project, have conducted quite a large analysis of the situation on natural and human-induced foci of SDS and their impact on various sectors of the economy of the country, proposed scientific and practical recommendations to reduce the influence of factors contributing to their formation, identified the main directions of action to achieve the goals and objectives of SDS. I think this is enough to start the mechanism of this project. The project is very important and timely for us, although I think with some delay.

Rahimov A. Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, scientific researcher

The most vulnerable areas to the SDS are the south-western regions of the Republic of Tajikistan, where a high degree of exposure to SDS and climate change is combined with a high geographical sensitivity and relatively low per capita income. The duration of the SDS period, in general, is increasing, which will undoubtedly lead to an even greater aggravation of the situation in this region.

Agriculture suffers the most from the effects of SDS and dust haze, both in livestock production and in irrigated and rain-fed agriculture. I have a request to CAREC not to stop on the success that has been reached and implement this project as soon as possible. I think that in the future, along with the SDS issues, special attention in Tajikistan shall be **given to dust**

haze, which in this country is increasing from year to year due to the sand transported from neighboring countries.

Anvar Eshonov representative of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The rapporteur noted that an important issue for Tajikistan at present is to recognize sand and dust storms as a risk of disasters, I fully agree with the rapporteur. Indeed, today in Tajikistan, the recognition of PCR as a risk of disasters is at a fairly low level, although its occurrence is observed routinely. Information that for the last 30 years the number of SDS in Tajikistan has increased more than 10 times, it is already a serious warning. I believe that special attention should be paid to the problems related to SDS. We have the scientific potential for this in the country, although I will not hide it, there is no scientific groundwork yet. I think close cooperation in this area with the Central Asian republics will be the key to solve this problem in Tajikistan. On behalf of my organization, I fully support this project, and I would like to note that has been implemented at very high professional level.

Nargis Yuldasheva (NGO)

There is no accurate information on the socio-economic damage from SDS in Tajikistan. There is information only on indirect causes of economic damage from SDS related to drought, soil degradation, etc. Tajikistan is at the initial stage of studying the impact of SDS on human health, particularly on women, children, the disabled and the elderly. Unfortunately, there are no accurate data on morbidity associated with SDS, and will not be until we seriously address this issue, namely through comprehensive study of the processes associated with SDS and dust haze on the economy and on the health of the population.

Vaysidin Saidov – Director of the Tajik branch, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

A number of consultative meetings were held with representatives of key ministries and agencies, research centers and public organizations during the development of the NAP on SDS. On October 15, 2020 the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has held a round table to discuss the draft NAP on SDS with participation of representatives of key ministries and agencies, research centers and public organizations. A special scientific-practical conference of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan was devoted to this problem. The draft NAP on SDS has passed all stages of review for such documents at the key ministries and agencies and was approved. I would like to note some difficulties, which the national working group faced during the development of the National Action Plan on SDS. The most important of them is the absence of any information on the emergencies and development of the SDS processes in Tajikistan and the lack of information on the main areas of SDS formation. But in spite of this, the experts coped with their tasks and submitted for our consideration quite scientifically substantiated NAP on SDS. The final version of the NAP was submitted to the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Abdurahimov B., Head of the Center of Standardization and Environmental Regulations. The rapporteur in his report voiced that some activities are already conducted within the National Action Program to Combat Desertification, as well as other national and sectoral programs. But I think it is not enough for achievement of the goal of the NAP on SDS and further address the issues set in the NAP on SDS. Therefore, it is necessary to address the issues set in the NAP as a separate area of environmental research. Integration of the reduction of the risk of transfer of the risk of SDSs into programs and plans for the development of eco-

conomic sectors should be the initial stage of solving the issue. In the future, the National Action Plan on the prevention and mitigation of the consequences of SDSs should be an independent tool to address this issue.

Concluding remarks were made by Vaysidin Saidov, Director of the Tajik branch of CAREC.

He concluded by summarizing the outcomes of the meeting, thanked all participants for active involvement in discussion of the NAP on SDS and support provided. Vaysidin Saidov provided special thanks on the behalf of CAREC branch in Tajikistan were given to the national expert on sand and dust storms and the expert team for the work that has been done.

Chair of the meeting:

Vaysidin Saidov,

Director of the Tajik branch

Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)