



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

**30 April, 2021**

**Workshop Report on the  
finalization of the National Action Plan for prevention  
and countering of strong winds and Sand and Dust Storms  
in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030**

On April 20 2021, a national workshop on finalization of the National Action Plan on Sand and Dust storms was held in Bishkek in online platform Zoom (please see attached agenda and the list of participants), where the problems associated by increasing hazard of sand and dust storms as well as high winds in Kyrgyzstan were discussed with relevant experts and representatives of related state bodies.

This National Action Plan (NAP) was developed within the frames of the Project "Regional approaches to combating sand and dust storms and drought" funded by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC).

The main goal of the NAP is to attract attention and raise public awareness about high winds and Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) in the Kyrgyz Republic, and plan appropriate actions to prevent and counteract them. The expected results include elaboration of the vulnerability assessment, mapping of their basic sources, using the available modern approaches, identification of priority actions, and development of the recommendations for coordination response to the hazards of SDS and high winds. The virtual meeting brought together around 20 relevant experts and specialists who actively discussed the proposed NAP and came up with some key tips and feedback. Also, interested AUCA students and faculty took part in the workshop.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Janybek Kerimaliev, National Focal Point on UNCCD implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who noted that the NAP was developed in close collaboration with all relevant ministries and agencies, including Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health, State Agency for Environmental Protection, NGOs and other key stakeholders. Mr. Kerimaliev also underlined that development of the NAP is fully in line with the ongoing activities of the Kyrgyz Government on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as changing climate patterns lead to various unforeseen consequences all over the world. Thus, recent unexpected and unprecedented sand and dust storms seriously affected

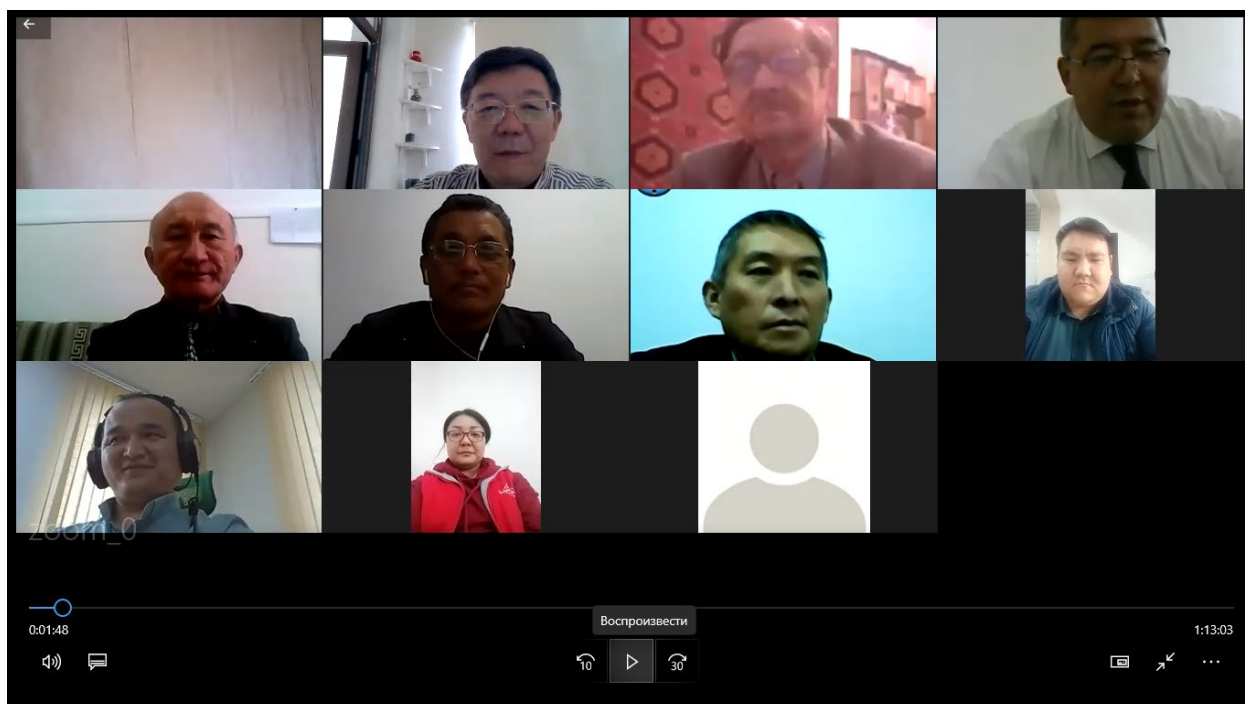
certain regions in China and Turkey which were not previously prone to Sand and Dust Storms. Kyrgyzstan, which is circumvented by large deserts in neighboring countries (like China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) also could become vulnerable for SDS and associated hazards. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic understands the problem and cooperates with international organizations, academia and civil society to support the country at all levels and in various ways.

Further, an overview of the final draft of the NAP was presented by chief technical expert, Mr. Rysbek Apasov. He noted that the final draft already incorporated feedback received from participants at the previous project meeting held in October 2020, as well as comments and recommendations from CAREC and UNCCD Secretariat. During his presentation Mr. Apasov summarized the main findings in all chapters of the NAP, paying attention to key topics, such as SDS and high winds and their impacts on the country, most vulnerable population groups as well as localization aspects of SDS in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In the opinion of the participants, the development of the NAP was very important and timely in the face of the climatic changes occurring in the country and the region of Central Asia. Representative the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), Mr. Almabek Aldakeev, added that the NAP will be of use for the further development of the MES strategy on mitigation of the risks from natural disasters. Participants also thanked UNCCD Secretariat and CAREC for raising the issue with SDS in the region. It is very important for all countries of Central Asia, since currently there is no clear and comprehensive vision of the problem, as well as a plan of sequential actions / measures to solve it.

Further, Kanat Sultanaliev from AUCA made a presentation focusing on mapping of the SDS and high winds prone regions in Kyrgyzstan. He noted that Kyrgyzstan, due to the peculiarities of its geographic location and relief, does not get significant damage from SDS. Nevertheless, there are areas in the country that are exposed to the impacts of SDS, therefore it is important and necessary to work on prevention of SDS. A detailed map showing the most SDS and high wind prone region of Wester Issikul was also shown and discussed with the participants. He also highlighted that, at present, the country does not monitor SDS at the national level. Air pollution by dust is also not monitored at the national level, although the problems of smog and pollution have increased significantly in recent years and are attracting the attention of the public and relevant government agencies.

Tatiana Chernikova from Kyrgyzhydromet noted that country does not have enough equipment and human resources to monitor the SDS, but Kyrgyzhydromet field specialists record cases of SDS in their relevant localities. However, centralized monitoring system on SDS and high winds is not really in place. It would require additional funding, which is very scarce at the Government. Therefore, donor support in this regard would be really helpful. She also underlined that a number of projects are currently ongoing to strengthen the monitoring network of Kyrgyzhydromet, so maybe in several years, some data on SDS will become available for certain localities of the country.



Furthermore, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University (KNAU) representative Mr. Abdybek Asanaliev emphasized the need for massed establishment and restoration of the forest shelter belts. This measure is very effective against high winds and at the same time brings other environmental benefits, such as, carbon sequestration and mitigation of the land degradation, as well as provision of some wood materials for the adjacent population. He said that KNAU has developed modules on forest shelter belts and integrated them into university curriculum.

Representative of the Republican Soil Agrochemistry Station, Mr. Kutman Isaev shared with the workshop participants his concerns on the existing trends for reduced soil fertility in Kyrgyzstan. Participants agreed that farmers have to be informed about some improper agricultural practices that lead to land degradation in the arable land plots. Also, they noted that the pursuit for immediate profit that motivates many farmers often becomes a hidden driver for unsustainable land management practices. Thus, again the need for increased public awareness on Sustainable Land Management and countering Land Degradation was highlighted by the workshop participants.

Ekaterina Sahvaeva, National Specialist on Integrated Water Management from the Ministry of Agriculture highlighted that the presented NAP findings are absolutely correct and indeed Western Issikul as well as northern part of the Chuy valley are hot spots in terms of reduced land productivity and high vulnerability for land degradation processes. She also added that the vicinity of the country to the Aral Sea aggravates the processes of land degradation and dust penetration from neighboring countries. That is why she called for improved regional cooperation, as such global issues like SDS and high winds should be tackled at the regional level and not only at the national level.

In his concluding remarks, National Focal Point on UNCCD implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Janybek Kerimaliev underlined that the presented National Action Plan for prevention and countering of strong winds and Sand and Dust Storms in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030 very well complies with the current national strategic priorities in

the field of sustainable agricultural development as well as arising environmental priorities related to climate change. He confirmed that the NAP was properly reviewed by the Ministry of Agriculture and official endorsement letter was already prepared and submitted to CAREC. Mr. Kerimaliev thanked the strong and long-term support provided to the Kyrgyz Republic by the UNCCD Secretariat and expressed a hope that further activities and projects on land degradation will be designed and implemented in coming years by all relevant development partners and international organizations. Ministry of Agriculture stays ready to support such projects and initiatives.

## **Attachments (Program and List of participants)**

### **THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION AND COUNTERING OF STRONG WINDS AND SAND AND DUST STORMS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC FOR 2021-2030**

**National workshop  
to discuss the draft national action plan  
April 20, 2021 | 15:00 | Zoom conference**

<https://zoom.us/j/98266747470?pwd=TzJPUFdlQ1ZHUUR0Z0oyeHVDOVRsQT09>

**Meeting ID: 982 6674 7470**

**Passcode: 031165**

*Registration for the round table - <https://forms.gle/MP65gBWDyhtztCcY6>*

Within the framework of the project "Regional approaches to combating sand and dust storms (SDS) and drought in Central Asia", funded by the UNCCD Secretariat and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), Ministry of Agriculture is organizing a national round table to discuss the draft National Action Plan on prevention and counteraction of strong winds and dust and sand storms in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030.

The main task of this meeting is to present a draft document, finalized on the recommendations of the first round table in October 2020, taking into account the subsequent discussions with the UNCCD National Focal Point, representatives of relevant ministries and departments.

The document also reflects the recommendations from CAREC (Almaty) and UNCCD Secretariat (Bonn, Germany). Similar documents are being developed by other CA countries - Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and CAREC as a whole coordinates a set of all national approaches to the SDS into a single regional document.

### **Program**

**National workshop  
to discuss the draft national action plan**

**Date and time:** 20 April 2021, 15.00

**Format:** online - Zoom

**Duration:** 2 hours

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
15:00-15:05	Introduction

15:05-15:15	Greetings and presentation of the main tasks and format of discussions: UNCCD National Coordinator Zh.K. Kerimaliev, Director of TSPC AUCA Sultanaliev K.
15:15-15:45	The structure and main provisions of the NAP - Apasov Rysbek
15:45 – 16:00	Mapping of SDS in Kyrgyzstan – Kanat Sultanaliev
16:00-16:45	Questions and panel discussion
16:45-16:55	Consolidation of the main proposals and remarks - Shamiev A. Zh.
16:55-17:00	Wrap up

### List of people registered for the event and their contacts

Timestamp	Фамилия, Имя	Организация	Должность	Телефон	Email
4.16.2021 17:32:23	Сатылканов Рысбек	Тянь-Шанский высокогорный научный центр НАН КР	Руководитель	+996550992911	r.satykanov@gmail.com
4.17.2021 11:42:33	Байбагышов Эрмек	Общество Почвоведов Кыргызстана, Нарынский государственный университет	Президент, Ректор	0707-517173	nsu0896@yahoo.de
4.19.2021 11:30:24	Марат Асаналиев	GIZ	Программный координатор	0770 71 55 88	marat.asanaliev@giz.de
4.19.2021 15:17:07	Черникова Татьяна	Агентство по гидрометеорологии при МЧС КР	Начальник Управления гидрометнаблюдений, прогнозов и обеспечения информацией	0556 500 148	tchernikova1969@mail.ru
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4.20.2021 10:34:14	Igor Nadjamberdiev	Toxic Action network Central Asia	Coordinator	0557003581	iqorho@mail.ru
4.20.2021 10:52:10	Керималиев Жаныбек	Министерство сельского, водного хозяйства и развития регионов Кыргызской Республики	Директор	+996701050501	kerimaliev_nfp@mail.ru
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4.20.2021 11:03:01	Кыдыкманов Эмильбек	Министерство сельского, водного хозяйства и развития регионов Кыргызской Республики	Заведующий отделом	+996777007707	kydykmanov58@mail.ru
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4.20.2021 14:17:50	Алмабек Алдакеев	Министерство Чрезвычайных Ситуаций	Главный специалист	0555334425	toqa-almabek696@mail.ru
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4.20.2021 15:16:23	Исаев Кутман	Республиканская почвенно-агрохимическая станция	директор	0556 41 50 20	r.p.a.s@mail.ru

