

## **Information on the project 5300464 “Improving environmental awareness in Kyrgyzstan”**

**22 May 2013**

**Project title:** “Improving environmental awareness in Kyrgyzstan”

**Partners:** “AKMENA” Public Association; “Ekois-Bishkek” Public Association

**Beneficiaries:** Ministry of Education, State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry, State Border Service, Universities, high schools, young journalists, local communities and authorities.

**Project objective:** To increase public environmental awareness, empower youth and the business community of Kyrgyzstan to practice Integrated Water Resources Management and apply Green Economy ideas and methods.

**Project description:** In 2011 and 2012, the CiB implemented a project aimed at integration of the water security issues into the educational standards of natural science disciplines for secondary schools in the country. In 2013, the CiB will continue its 2012 activities aimed at building the capacity of the Water Task Force (WTF) school network in addressing local water problems and extending to areas with mining exploration, which will be targeted, utilizing the Water Task Force as a community resource to help frame discussion about the environmental consequences of mining. This will complement and further other EED activities focussing on the impacts of mining issues on communities and local governments. By providing fact based information about water quality, the WTF will help foster open discussion of the actual impacts of mining on the host community, contributing to a reduction in tension as clear discussions of the advantages and disadvantages of mining operations emerge.

In 2012, the CiB supported the development of a Green Economy training component for use at the university level. In 2013, the CiB will assist with the adoption and integration of that module into university programs in economics and development, through finalizing the module and facilitating its adoption in the university system. At least four universities will introduce the new curriculum. With the adoption of the 2012-2017 National Sustainable Development Strategy the component of sustainability and ecological meaning is particularly important as it has been mainstreamed in all economic sectors.

In the short term, there is a clear need for improved understanding of environmental issues and green economic principles within the broader community, government agencies, business and academia. Through support of such initiatives as “Eco Cafes” and roundtables for discussion of environmental issues, support for websites providing information about the environment and green economics, the CiB will foster better understanding and adoption of environmentally sound decisions at the government, business and community levels.

## **Activities within the project:**

### **Task 1. Expansion of the Water Task Force network of schools and universities in Kyrgyzstan**

*Activity 1.1* Selection of additional schools and expansion of the Water Task Force network

*Activity 1.2* Organization of tender and purchasing additional water mini laboratories for schools and universities

*Activity 1.3.* A two-day capacity building workshop to train the members of the WTF school network in water security issues.

*Activity 1.4* Organization of the round table to present results of community initiatives on liquidation of oil pollution in Issyk-kul province.

*Activity 1.5* Organization of the summer Ecocamp for children. A summer Ecocamp will be organized for 60 participants. This camp is organized as one of the confidence-building activities for strengthening co-operation and understanding of various security issues facing Kyrgyzstan between border services of three countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. During a two-week period children of staff of Border Services will be trained and engaged in different practical lessons, enhancing their knowledge of environmental and security issues.

*Activity 1.6* Communities will initiate and realize activities to address local problems related to water quality.

### **Task 2: Improving public environmental awareness and promotion of the Green Economy concepts for universities, business community and the public sector of Kyrgyzstan**

*Activity 2.1* Training for teachers and editing of the education module on Green Economy and supporting materials.

*Activity 2.2* Experts are invited for exchange of technical experience on solution of the problem with obsolete pesticides.

*Activity 2.3* Organization of roundtables to improve environmental awareness and knowledge on Green Economy for business sector and youth of Bishkek.

*Activity 2.4* National training is conducted for journalists to promote ecological journalism in the country.

### **Expected Results:**

- Expansion of the Water Task Forces network of schools and universities in Kyrgyzstan.
- Increased public environmental awareness on the issues of oil pollution in the Issyk-kul area.
- At least 2 small-scale projects aimed at water safety measures are developed and implemented by universities, schools, communities and local self government bodies in both southern and northern regions of Kyrgyzstan.
- Inclusion of a Green Economy module in the curricula in pilot universities. Interactive training materials for teachers are used by the universities.
- Contribution to the development of a Green Economy initiative in Jalal-Abad province on the obsolete pesticides burial site at Suzak A;
- Business community, government officials and NGO's, the education sector of Kyrgyzstan, independent student organizations, and WTF network representatives are involved in discussions on Green Economy, and public environmental awareness issues.
- Website "Green map" of Bishkek is developed, promoted and widely used as a source of information in related field plus website Ekois (environmental news) was improved.
- All journalists can use gained knowledge on Green Economy in their professional work