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Environmental Challenges in Tajikistan

Climate Change Impact



Recession of Fedchenko glaciers system



Climate Change impacts on agriculture and food security also causing increased risk of natural disasters like landslides, mudflows and flooding; Pamir mountains, Tajikistan

Land Management



Deforestation throughout Tajikistan causing land degradation and erosion problems, Rasht Valley, Tajikistan

Waste Management



Illegal Waste Dump in populated area, Khatlon Region, Tajikistan

Fact of illegal tree cutting



Deforestation throughout Tajikistan causing land degradation and erosion problems

Water Management



River Panj as border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Pamir mountains, Tajikistan

Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Tajikistan

- Republic of Tajikistan joined the Aarhus Convention on 9 June 2001 after the Decree № 594 of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. In 2002 the first National Coordinator had been appointed by the Government as well as the National Working Group, which facilitated implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Tajikistan during 2001-2013.
- OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported establishment of the first Aarhus Center in Dushanbe, which became the key instrument for realization of Aarhus Convention in the country. In order to facilitate implementation of the Aarhus Convention and strengthen the cooperation between state agencies and civil society organizations in the regions of the country, Aarhus Centers in Khujand (2005), Kurgan-Tyube (2009) and Khorog (2011) had been established within the public organization. Center have conducted awareness raising activities among the public, decision-making bodies, judges, Media representatives and other targeted groups of civil society with support of the OSCE and other Donor organizations and Programmes. In 2013 OSCE supported establishment of the three new Aarhus Centers in Tursunzade, Kumsangir and Garm and launch of Aarhus Centers webpage www.aarhus.tj .
- Thus the Aarhus Centers network covering the whole geographical territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, serve as a platform for cooperation between civil society organizations and governmental structures as well as a source of information on national environmental activities for interested parties.

Aarhus Centers in Tajikistan



- Dushanbe
- Khujand
- Kurgan-Tyube
- Khorog
- Garm
- Kumsangir
- Tursunzade

Aarhus Centers Donors and Partners

- OSCE (OCEEA and OSCE Office in Tajikistan)
- ENVSEC initiative
- Government of Norway
- UNDP Tajikistan
- Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of Tajikistan and its branches in the regions
- Local Hukumat (government authorities)
- Local TV channels
- Journalists and Mass Media;
- Eco Journalists Club under the CEP
- Local NGOs;
- Aarhus Centre in Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Awareness raising activities and access to information with involvement of civil society



- Information sessions on Aarhus Convention principles and environmental hot spots of the regions
- Free ecological and legal consultations
- Free access to environmental library and internet
- Installation of Ecological Information Boards in public areas
- Preparation of documentary films and articles
- Eco Journalism Festivals and Competitions

Public Participation in Decision Making

- Public hearings and open public discussions on draft legislative documents
- Public environmental monitoring with involvement of local population
- Local Environmental Strategy for Dushanbe, Taboshar, Kayrakkum and Chkalovsk cities with participation of local population
- EIA and PRTR trainings for the farmers, factories, business companies and etc
- “Green Policy” and “Green Credit” promoted for microfinance organizations



Active participation of stakeholders in the Public Hearing for developing an Environmental Code of Tajikistan, Khorog May 2013

Access to justice

- School of Environmental Rights for the law students, advocates and courts members
- Free legal consultations to citizens and NGOs at the Aarhus Centre by the Human Rights Center (a partner NGO)



School of Environmental Rights

Aarhus Centers focus on specific regional environmental challenges

All Aarhus Centers conduct activities related to three main directions of the Convention however some activities and functions of the Centers are region specific. For example:

Dushanbe Aarhus Center – Coordinating Center responsible for website maintenance and data collection

Kurgan-Tyube Aarhus Center – Information campaigns

Khorog Aarhus Center – Protection of mountainous ecosystem and regional environmental cooperation with Afghanistan

Khujand Aarhus Center – Campaigns on radioactive safety and regional environmental cooperation with Osh Aarhus Center (Kyrgyzstan)



Activities to enhance Aarhus Centres Network

- Annual Coordination Meeting of the Aarhus Centres and members of the National Working Group
- Development of recommendations for elaboration of the national Action Plan for implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Tajikistan
- Development of webpage www.aarhus.tj



Training for the National Working Group, established by the government, and which is tasked with the development of a National Action Plan for Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Tajikistan

Challenges

- Lack of National Action Plan as a basis for fulfillment of commitments for implementation of the Convention at national level;
- Lack of procedural documents on realization of the National Legal Acts;
- Poor understanding of business entities of their responsibilities regarding protection and rational use of natural resources as well as access to necessary ecological information and justice;
- Lack of population's skills to apply ecological information and use their ecological rights.

A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like corn or sorghum, with a soft, blurred background. The leaves are the central focus of the slide.

Thank you!