



Issue 14, May 2014 (semi-annual)

Industry Update

Expert discussion of drafts of regulatory acts governing the management of production and consumption waste

The discussion of drafts of regulatory acts governing the management of production and consumption waste was held on May 24.

The roundtable was organized by the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the Kyrgyzstan, UNDP and UNEP Partnership Initiative on Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes Project and Management and Disposal of PCBs in Kyrgyzstan Project (UNDP/GEF).

The roundtable participants included representatives from the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry and its subdivisions, other state agencies such as the State Committee for Statistics and the State Inspectorate for Environmental and Technical Safety, the Sanitary and Environmental Inspection Unit of the Bishkek Mayor's Office, and natural resource users.

Among the drafts of waste management regulatory acts discussed were:

1. Guidelines for setting waste treatment rates in the Kyrgyz Republic;
2. Guidelines for collecting, transporting, processing and disposing hazardous industrial

Legal Update

Glacier bill passed second reading in Parliament by Resolution of February 26, 2014 № 3847-V

Kyrgyz glacier bill passed its second reading in Parliament. The bill is initiated by MPs Imankojoeva E.B., Jeenbekov A.S., Imanaliev K.K. and Sultanbekova C.A.

Also, a Parliamentary committee on agrarian policy, water resources, ecology and regional development (Nyshanov S.K.) was instructed to submit this bill with amendments in writing to Parliament for a third reading.

Amendments to Law on Sustainable Development of Issyk-Kul Eco-Economic System proposed by Law of October 19, 2013 N 196

The amendments to the Issyk-Kul Eco-Economic System Sustainable Development Law are as follows:

(1) The law is amended to include the new definitions of wetland, water protected area, aquatic and semiaquatic birds.

Thus, wetland is an area of swamps, fens, turfens, or ponds, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, standing or flowing, fresh, saltish, or salt.

Water protected area is a territory

waste;

3. Guidelines for determining the maximum allowable accumulation of hazardous industrial waste;

4. Guidelines for keeping primary records of hazardous waste treatment.

The participants gave their recommendations regarding many questions, for example, comments and suggestions on the structure of the waste record-keeping log based on their own experience and practices. The received comments will be taken into account and considered during the course of further revisions to the regulatory acts.

307 snow leopards left in Kyrgyzstan, with 129 of them living in Issyk-Kul region

According to the press service of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, there are 307 snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan as of 2013.

Of them, 129 live in the Issyk-Kul region, 52 in each of the Chui and Jalal-Abad regions, 27 in each of the Osh and Batken regions, 24 in the Talas region and 23 in the Naryn region.

As reported by the State Agency, snow leopards mainly inhabit the areas of Terskei Ala-Too, Kyrgyz, Talas, Chatkal, Kashkaal-Too, Fergana and Alai mountain ranges.

Kyrgyz glacier bill discussed in Bishkek by MPs, experts and representatives of ministries

Kyrgyz glacier bill passed second reading in Parliament on April 2014. The bill provides a regulatory framework for protection of glaciers and efficient use of water resources, and sets forth minimum standards for protection of glaciers as strategic reserves of water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Also, the bill proposes to create a state registry of glaciers for their identification. The registry of glaciers will be updated every 5 years to monitor changes in them. The bill prohibits emission, spraying and storage of substances, pollutants and chemicals on the glaciers. It also bans

adjacent to a water body where special regime is maintained to prevent its pollution, clogging, depletion, siltation.

Aquatic and semiaquatic birds are wildlife species inhabiting wetland and coastal water bodies.

(2) Mineral resources of the Issyk-Kul eco-economic system refer to strategic resources intended to meet the needs of future generations of the people of Kyrgyzstan;

(3) Biological resources including the wetland of the Issyk-Kul eco-economic system are the genetic material for conserving global biological diversity;

(4) Flora and fauna, including endemic and especially valuable species constituting biodiversity of Lake Issyk-Kul natural environment, are subject to registration, state protection and control over their use in the manner established by the Kyrgyz Government;

(5) Forest ecosystem protected objects of the Issyk-Kul eco-economic system include trees, bushes and other vegetation of natural and artificial origin;

(6) In the territory of the Issyk-Kul eco-economic system, the mining activities near the rivers flowing into Lake Issyk-Kul are prohibited;

- In Lake Issyk-Kul, cage fish farming including cultivation of rainbow trout or non-endemic fish as well as the use of monofil nodeless fishing nets are prohibited;

- Pollution of Lake Issyk-Kul and coastal area with production and consumption waste is prohibited.

Biodiversity Conservation Priority Guidelines until 2024 and Action Plan for 2014-2020 approved by KR Government Resolution of March 17, 2014 № 131

The Biodiversity Conservation Priority Guidelines until 2024 and Action Plan for 2014-2020 are approved by the Government Resolution.

The ministries and administrative agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Academy of Science of the Kyrgyz Republic are instructed to inform the Environmental Agency on the Action Plan progress annually by May 22.

The Environmental Agency is responsible for coordination and monitoring of the Action Plan

construction and operation of infrastructure and industrial facilities, exploration and mining activities in the periglacial environment.

Comprehensive program for strengthening capacity for climate change adaptation to be implemented at local level

A two-day introductory training workshop on Local Climate Change Adaptation was held in Karakol on March 25-26. The workshop was organized in furtherance of Resolution No.2 of June 14, 2013 adopted by the National Coordination Committee on Climate Change, chaired by Vice-Prime Minister T.D. Sarpashev.

The event was organized by the administrative office of the Special Envoy of the Kyrgyz Government to the Issyk-Kul region, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF), the UNDP Environment & Sustainable Development Programme and the EU-UN Project on Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice.

The workshop was attended by the participants representing both the local self-government authorities from the pilot ayil okmotu (rural governments) selected under the UNDP-EU Project on Operationalizing Good Governance for Social Justice and the Issyk-Kul regional authorities directly involved in the climate change adaptation issues such as agriculture, energy, healthcare, emergency and disaster control, or water, forest and biodiversity conservation. At the workshop, the participants received valuable information on international and national experience in developing adaptive policies to respond to climate change, gender aspects in climate change policymaking and practical skills for developing industry-specific adaptive measures.

Kyrgyz water quality monitoring steering committee holds session

The Kyrgyz water quality monitoring steering committee held its regular session in Bishkek on January 28, 2014.

The representatives of the Finnish Environment Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland arrived in Bishkek to participate in the session and discuss further cooperation on Water

progress.

The Biodiversity Conservation Priority Guidelines until 2024 define the condition of the biological diversity of the republic (forest, water, arid and semiarid area ecosystems and unique ecosystems (walnut forest and Issyk-Kul ecosystems) and describe the genetic diversity of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Priority Guidelines strategic goals are as follows:

- (1) by 2020, to include the biodiversity conservation issue as the basis of subsistence of the population and sustainable development of the Kyrgyz economy on the agenda of governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (2) to reduce burden on biodiversity, to stimulate its sustainable use;
- (3) to improve protection and control over condition of ecosystems and species diversity;
- (4) to increase social significance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, to increase the scope of sustainable supply of ecosystem services and traditional technologies.

The Priority Guidelines will be carried out according to the phased Action Plans (the first phase in 2014-2020 and the second phase in 2020-2024) approved by the decision of the Kyrgyz Government.

Strategic goals and objectives of the Action Plans will be achieved by joining the efforts of the parties concerned such as the National Academy of Science, ministries and administrative agencies, local government and self-government authorities, non-governmental organizations and associations, as well as international donor organizations. Many events will be organized in furtherance of international projects with support from GEF, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, WWF, KOICA and others.

The Action Plans progress reports will be annually submitted by relevant ministries and administrative agencies to the Environmental Agency for summarizing and analyzing.

Financing of the Actions Plans will be provided from the public funds and international donor grants.

Management Programme (FinWaterWEI II).

At the session, attendees were presented with a project progress report beginning from the planning stage and including a preliminary action plan and budget estimate for the first half of 2014.

Also, there was delivered information on the proposed project promoting decision-making based on the results of environmental monitoring and aimed at eco-economic development of Lake Issyk-Kul area approved by the Finnish MFA under the Water Management Programme (FinWaterWEI II).

The project proposal was prepared by the SAEPP in consultations with the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and referred to the Finnish MFA for consideration in May 2013.

The main purpose of the project is to build capacity for environmentally sound decision-making through the example of the pilot area of Lake Issyk-Kul by improving environmental monitoring practices (water quality control) and facilitating the use of environmental data in policymaking.

A visit to Lake Issyk-Kul took place on January 23-24, 2013 to assess laboratory and judicial capacity to monitor the quality of coastal and deep sea water. Meetings were held with the local stakeholders to assess capacity for the follow up and revision of the project documentation and budget estimate.

The session of the project steering committee resulted in approval of the action plan and budget estimate for the Kyrgyz Water Quality Monitoring Project till the end of June 2014. It was also decided to apply to the Finnish MFA for official confirmation of approval of the project proposal developed under FinWater II for 2014-2017.

Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum held in Bishkek

The Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum was held in Bishkek on October 22- 23, 2013 at the initiative of Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev. The Global Forum is meant to sound the alarm about the increased threats to the survival of snow leopards and the critical ecosystems they inhabit. The Forum adopted the Bishkek Declaration on Snow Leopard Conservation and approved the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Recovery Program (GSLEP). It is a conservation strategy for the next 7 years till 2020 approved by range country

Wetland Conservation Priority Guidelines until 2023 and Actions Plan for 2013-2017 approved by Government Resolution of October 18, 2013 N 569

The above resolution approved the Wetland Conservation Priority Guidelines until 2023. According to them, wetland plays an important role as a water resource in the Central Asian region characterized by its aridness. Wetland in the Kyrgyz Republic is represented by rivers, lakes, swamps and artificial ponds. The largest are Issyk-Kul, Son-Kul, and Chatyr-Kul, as well as about 100 small lakes with the total area exceeding 66,750 sq.m. The lakes of the republic are mainly located at the altitude of 2,000 m above sea level.

The Action Plans are expected to result in the following products:

- ongoing wetland and aquatic birds monitoring system;
- wetland and aquatic birds conservation measures;
- demarcation of Issyk-Kul and Karatal wildlife reservations;
- accurate lists of aquatic birds;
- improvement of regulatory framework for wetland and aquatic birds conservation and reduction of unregulated human impact on them;
- natural ecosystems restoration and conservation measures, improvement of environment functions, well-balanced natural and cultural complexes and landscapes.

The Priority Guidelines are based on the partnership of governmental authorities, scientific institutions, general public and business community. They will be carried out according to phased wetland conservation action plans (2013-2017 годы – the first phase; 2017-2020 – the second phase and 2020-2023 – the third phase) approved by the decision of the Kyrgyz Government.

Financing of the Actions Plans will be provided from the public funds and international donor grants.

Government Resolution of

governments and consists of the 12 individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Priorities. Major starting point is collaboration on intensified scientific research and monitoring in snow leopard habitats.

In furtherance of the decisions of the Forum, it was agreed to establish a Working Committee and Secretariat in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, to facilitate Program development after the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum.

It should be noted also that to conserve and restore the population of snow leopards the Kyrgyz Government developed and approved on October 19, 2012 the National Strategy on Snow Leopard Conservation in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2013-2023 and the action plan approved by the Prime Minister's Order of August 5, 2013.

Kyrgyzstan asserts its position on commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020

To attract foreign investment and ensure technical assistance for the processes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), the SAEPF has developed a statement of Kyrgyzstan's concerted position on its voluntary commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, reported the State Secretary Bahtiyar Abdiev at the SAEPF staff meeting.

This statement was forwarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the secretariat of UN FCCC.

According to ecologist Shamil Ilyasov, in Kyrgyzstan, annual amount of greenhouse gas emissions is estimated at 12 million tonnes compared to 30 million tonnes in 90s. Since 1995, due to industrial decline, greenhouse gas emissions has been varying between 10 and 12 million tonnes, when the greenhouse effect of other gases is similar to carbon dioxide ratio, reported Ilyasov.

According to him, emissions are caused by domestic energy consumption, transport and stationary sources of central heating and power plant as well as about 30 major heat and power production facilities.

Environmental Agency holds staff meeting to report accomplishments

November 5, 2013 N 437-p

The above resolution approved the members of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for the preparation and implementation of programs and projects related to solving the uranium tailings and radiation safety problems. The Committee was formed to improve coordination of activities related to the preparation and implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic of programs and projects related to solving the uranium tailings and radiation safety problems and cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), other donors and international organizations.

The permanent representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Community is appointed as the national coordinator of the Kyrgyz Republic for the technical cooperation with the IAEA and as the chairman of the Committee.

in 2013 and plans for 2014

On January 30, 2014, the Environmental Agency held its staff meeting to report its accomplishments in 2013 and plans for 2014.

According to its press release, the staff meeting discussed the following matters:

- the Agency's accomplishments in the area of:

- environmental safety and protection activities;
- drafting a chapter on environmental policy in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of KR for 2013-2017 approved by Presidential Edict of January 21, 2013 and proposing measures to achieve priorities and objectives specified therein;
- improving regulatory framework for environmental safety;
- drafting the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in furtherance of its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The work is underway on drafting the Fifth National Biodiversity Report for submission to the secretariat of the convention;
- activities in furtherance of its commitment under the UN FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol thereto, in particular, organization and holding of four meetings (on February 15, June 14, September 20, and December 28, 2013) of the Climate Change Coordinating Committee headed by Kyrgyz Vice Prime Minister T.D. Sarpashev and formed pursuant to Government Resolution of November 21, 2012 № 783 to improve coordination of activities in the area of climate change;
- drafting Climate Change Adaptation Priority Guidelines until 2017 approved by the KR Government Resolution of October 2, 2013 № 549 and setting forth adaptation measures in major sectors: water resources, agriculture, public health, climate emergency situations, forest resources and biodiversity;
- drafting a statement of Kyrgyzstan's concerted position on its voluntary commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 with the appropriate international support to attract foreign investment and ensure technical assistance for the processes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This statement was forwarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the secretariat of UN FCCC. The adoption of such statement ensures access for the country to climate funds.

- developing the NAMA Project on small boilers modernization in the Kyrgyz Republic with support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Environment under the International Climate Initiative, the purpose of which is to improve energy efficiency by 34% by 2020 through modernization of small boilers and reduction of greenhouse gases, which will facilitate gradual movement towards low carbon development.
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