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Progress Report for 2015

I) Recap of the project objectives:

In accordance with Memorandum on mutual cooperation between the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on December 23, 2014 the following tasks were set in front of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek:

- the interaction between environmental non-profit organizations, government agencies, local authorities, international organizations and other stakeholders;
- creation of informational-analytical and training materials, based on official information and the results of the research, for submission of the objective information to the public and systematic capacity building of all stakeholders;
- promotion of cooperation between environmental organizations and their potential partners among international and non-profit organizations.

II) Summary of activities:

- Activity 2.1. "The development of the electronic format of environmental indicators for the category "Water resources".

In preparation of the National Environmental preservation report of the Kyrgyz Republic SAEPF should have to develop an electronic format of 8 environmental indicators for the category "Water resources" in June and July, and the Aarhus Centre should provide assistance in terms of logistics in the development of the electronic format. Due to the fact that the SAEPF reschedule training and development of the format to a later date, then, the execution of the activities of Aarhus Centre will be carried out later.

Also within this category of activity Aarhus Centre in collaboration with the SAEPF conducted environmental campaign to clean debris of coastal zone of Issyk-Kul lake in

Cholpon-Ata region. The event was carried out with the help of divers-activists of private company "Agarkov". It was supposed to affect the residents and tourists in the region to maintain clean environment. Photographers, print media and television were invited to get coverage in the media. The information about the event was published through different media. At national television, first channel of the Kyrgyz Republic made story in the news program "Ala-Too", youth website "Kloop" published article, also information was in newspapers "The Word of Kyrgyzstan", "Evening Bishkek", "MSN" and had press coverage at news radio station "BBC" by local representative.



- Activity 2.2. "Promoting awareness of the Aarhus Convention among decision makers and the general public."

a) The international consultant OSCE D.Prudtskih conducted trainings for productive activity of employees of Aarhus Centre, who was invited by OSCE Centre in Bishkek. He conducted trainings on institutional development of the Centre, has assisted in the selection of a number of activities and measures to implement them, and discussed various approaches to the work and planning for the foreseeable future. At the end of the trainings strategic plan of development of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2018 years was developed. Also action plan has been developed which aims on implementation of the Strategic Plan.



On May 7, 2015 after preparing all the materials in the conference hall of "Bishkek City" round table was held. At this round table Aarhus Centre and Strategic plan of development of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2018 were presented. The participants of the event were the deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, members of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, members of agencies and ministries, members of public, non-governmental, international, human rights organizations, people from educational institutions and academia, business, media and independent experts in the field of ecology. This event provided an opportunity for all audience to get acquainted with our organization, and get information about work plans for coming period.



b) Vienna (Austria) hosted a regular meeting of the leaders of Aarhus Centres in South-Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia from 3 to 4 June 2015.

Presentations featured K.Isabaev director of Aarhus center in Osh and D.Bekkulova Head of Environmental Strategy and Planning of SAEPP. The basis of D.Bekkulova presentation, in preparation of which involved the head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek A.Nurbekov, included the Strategic Plan of Aarhus Centres in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2018 years. . All presentations were accepted positively by the participants and moderators of sessions. The difference of this meeting from last year, according to the speakers, were the increase in the number of Aarhus Centres in the region, creating the preconditions for a more dynamic promotion of the principles of the Convention, increasing number of relevant government agencies and public in preserving the environment. In addition speakers noted development of the implementation of cross-border projects, an increased consideration of the violation by law enforcement agencies for environmental protection of property rights. Aarhus Centres in the region were set goals for increasing the role in matters of environmental conservation, development of the environmental rights of the public security system, strengthening work with local authorities and necessity of conducting trainings in purpose to use the principles of the Aarhus Convention in their work, involvement of the media in the dissemination of necessary and truthful information in the field of environmental damage.



c) 19th session of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention took place in Geneva (Switzerland) on 17-19 June 2015. At this session Head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek A. Nurbekov participated on behalf of the SAEPPF. The main issue of the session was a review of the results of 18th meeting of parties and course of the execution of the Aarhus Convention in countries that have signed and ratified the document.

The focus of this session was to review and discuss results of implementation of orders of previous session and properly implemented provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Many participants underscored the need for public awareness of the Aarhus Convention in the countries that are not parties to the convention, and provide assistance to new countries that have joined the Convention.

d) On July 1st, 2015, in Astana, Kazakhstan, the annual open meeting of Aarhus Centres of Kazakhstan was held. It was attended by the coordinator of the Kyrgyz Republic environmental project on ecology and environmental protection of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek (E.Dzhumakadyrova) and head of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek (A.Nurbekov).). The meeting was initiated by the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan and the Office of the OSCE programs in Astana. The focus of the meeting was on "Public participation in decision-making and access to environmental information". Employees of departments of the Ministry of Energy, representatives of the Supreme Court and the Statistics Committee of Kazakhstan, independent experts and heads of Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan acted during this meeting.

The issues that were raised during the meeting are important for the Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan. Considering the fact that many of Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan opened more than 10-12 years ago, and have a great experience, this meeting provided an opportunity to learn and appreciate their efforts towards the implementation of the principles of the Aarhus

Convention. . E.Dzhumakadyrova in turn informed about an experience for the disposal of chemical waste and protective measures in Kyrgyzstan. She told about the project in Bishkek that has been realized by Aarhus Centre in Osh together with local public authorities in Jalal-Abad, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the OSCE Centre. Briefly, she told about the work done on the installation of protective measures at the place of burial of chemical, namely, presented information about how to install fences, warning posters, signs and information boards by relevant services. In addition, she carried out explanatory work with the residents of nearby settlements. In this example she emphasized the necessity of joint efforts and involvement of stakeholders in solving various environmental issues.

A. Nurbekov head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek presented information on the work of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan and ways of implementation of the Strategic Development Plan of Aarhus Centres for the period 2015-2018. This document generated interest by participants. The participants were made requests for this document. Also participants of the meeting were given the brief information on how to work with public and information in Kyrgyzstan and the methods that used for public awareness on issues related to environmental matters. An overview was presented of our joint activity with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the SAEPF in the implementation of environmental programs.

The meeting has shown that it can help to jointly consider problematic issues and propose ways of joint resolution. In addition this kind of events will help to establish contacts for further mutual cooperation, share experience and provide information about their activities.



e) In accordance with the schedule of meetings of the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, on 24-26 November 2015, 2nd global forum-round table on the implementation of the PRTR and 4th meeting of the working group of PRTR Protocol performers was held in Madrid (Spain). The head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek A.Nurbekov was a participant of the event. He represented the SAEPF as the executive body for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic. This event is held on basis of performance of the assignments of first meeting of the Global Forum and consideration of future challenges. Today, there are 39 countries in the world that have signed and ratified the PRTR Protocol and implement it in their territories. Several countries reported on their work, shared their

experiences and expressed several difficulties for the implementation of the PRTR Protocol. It must be said that the implementation of the protocol is not successful everywhere. At the same time, the roundtable participants' expressed necessity of implementation of protocol and increase the overall effort to prevent emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere. . This requires international monitoring and overall supervision over the execution points of the PRTR Protocol.

f) To inform the public about the work of the Aarhus Centres in KR we made a joint decision with the Aarhus Centre of Osh to create a single Web Site of Aarhus Centres of KR. For this purpose OSCE Centre in Bishkek tender was held. And after that, we signed a contract with a private entrepreneur Omorov A.A., who heads the company «Webformat.kg». He created new website based on an existing site of Aarhus Centre of Osh. With the help of new site we intend to inform the public about the work of Aarhus KR centers, the implementation of principles of the Aarhus Convention on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic and what kind of amendments are made in NLA KR. In addition we propose to our visitors' consultation on any environmental issue and answer their questions, environmental news, database of environmental organizations and environmental experts.



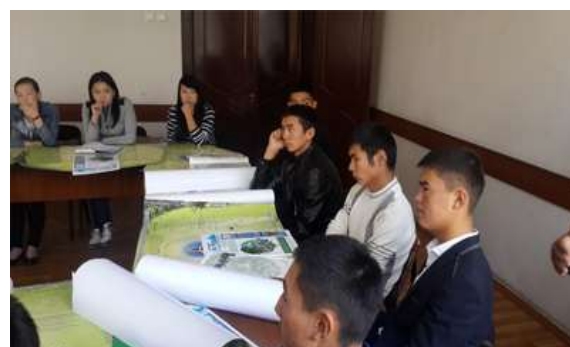
During the reporting period on the website have been published several materials related to the implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention. There are reports on trainings and seminars, briefly described the meeting with partners, raised the problem in the field of the environment and compliance of environmental rights of civil society. . On the website we posted our list of partners, consultants and organizations working for preservation of the environment. Different articles on ecological theme are posted weekly. All laws and regulatory and procedural acts of Kyrgyz Republic in the field of ecology and environmental protection are posted on the one of forums. Also there are information about International Convention, work plans of Aarhus Centres and international meetings and events. All materials on the site are published in 3 languages - Kyrgyz, Russian and English for more coverage of readers and visitors of our site.

In addition all the materials we post on our page on the «Facebook» and today we have a large number of visitors and friends of Aarhus.

g) For the awareness of population of Bishkek and its visitors in front of the building of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek information stand was installed. On a monthly basis, we will inform the public about our environmental activities, disseminate relevant news about amending the NLA KR and it has brief information about the Aarhus Center. Thus, the public will be able to get first-hand latest information about the activities of Aarhus Centre and the Kyrgyz environmental news.



h) For public awareness about the Aarhus Convention and the establishment of environmental clubs we held meetings with professors and students of different universities of the country. On September 23, 2015 a meeting with students of the Faculty "Geography, Ecology and Tourism" of Kyrgyz National University had been organized. An educational lecture was held on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, work plans and activities of the Aarhus Centres of the Kyrgyz Republic, the availability of information and public awareness on environmental issues as well as public participation in environmental issues were described.



Then, on 7th October 2015, in conjunction with UNDP elective hour for the teaching staff and students of the Faculty of "Natural Resource Management" Kyrgyz National Agrarian University was held. This meeting has been organized according to the strategic plan of development of the Aarhus Centres Kyrgyz Republic for 2015 - 2018 years and dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. During the meeting several questions were raised - questions relating to the work progress of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek; to the Aarhus Convention, to implementation of various projects in the framework of the UNDP. A.K. Samykbaev dean of the faculty speaking on behalf of the university expressed the interest of the University to continue such meetings and further cooperation in environmental education.



The meetings took place on 30th October, 2015 between Bishkek employees of Aarhus Centre and members of the student environmental club "BIOTA" of Kyrgyz-Turkish University "Manas". This club exists 5 years and has a membership of about 60 students from freshman to senior. Most of the active students in this club are senior students. Staff of Aarhus Centre reported on their activities, work plans and past events. Also, Aarhus Centre showed video and photo sketches on the conducted campaign and introduced materials of website. It was suggested to unite the efforts of Aarhus Centre and members of the club in question of environmental protection. It has also been proposed to provide awareness training and to conduct educational events among students and civil society. The Aarhus Centre will be able to assist in terms of organization for the preparation of these activities and join forces with other universities of the republic.



i) On 19-20 September, 2015, PF "Clean Issyk Kul" jointly with the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek held a campaign to clean up coastal area of Lake Issyk-Kul near Cholpon-Ata. Divers of PF "Clean Issyk-Kul" and divers enthusiasts from Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan took part in the event. Despite of rainy weather, a few cubic meters of garbage were collected for 2 days. Garbage consisted mostly of plastic bottles used bags, different clothes, sun beds, toys and much more. It should be noted that such action has already conducted by SAEPF at the beginning of the swimming season in May this year, which was attended by the Aarhus Centre with the support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Both events were aimed to attract local people to preserve the lake Issyk-Kul in its pure form, to instill respect for it, to create all necessary conditions for safe swimming residents of Issyk-Kul region and visitors.



j) On 12 November, 2015, a meeting was held bringing together leaders of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and Osh, National Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention N.Baydakova, judge of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic D.Arstanbaeva with media representatives. This meeting was organized by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. For media representatives information was provided on the situation in the field of environmental protection, on the implementation of the principles and provisions of Aarhus Convention in Kyrgyzstan, on the work of the judiciary on cases in the field of ecology, on the main directions of the State Environmental Protection Agency and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the promotion of legislative initiatives and on the work of the Aarhus Centres. During the meeting the participants were given several questions relating to problems in the field environmental preservation, to violations environmental rights of citizens of the republic, to measures that taken to access public awareness in the field of ecology, to methods used by Aarhus on the Centre to fulfill its tasks.



During 2 hour meeting, different ecological problems were discussed such as access to environmental information, the necessity of public participation in the preservation of environment. In addition participants discussed the possibility of creating the conditions for a qualified approach to the protection of environmental rights and increase knowledge on the correct application of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic taking into consideration the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

- Activity 2.3. "Assist in the creation and translation of TV commercials on environmental issues for children from 7 to 25 years."

This activity should be carried out by the Environmental Movement "BIOM", which today holds all the necessary arrangements.

- Activity 2.4. "Conducting trainings on implementation of the Aarhus Convention in regions of Kyrgyzstan."

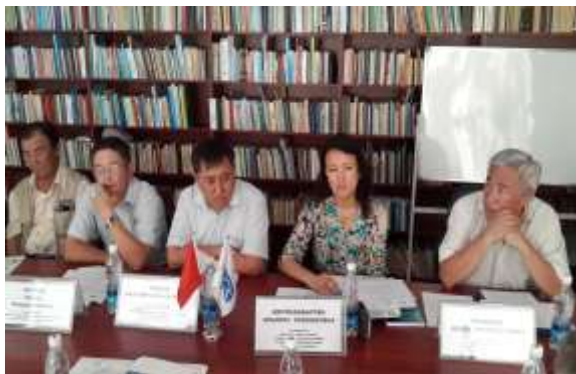
In accordance with the work plan of Aarhus Centre of Bishkek held round tables in 4 regions of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- a) On May 21 in Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul region, a round table on "Aarhus Convention - a tool to protect and preserve the environment" was organized in collaboration OSCE Centre and SAEPF. The meeting was attended by director of the SAEPF, S.Atadzhanov, coordinator of environmental projects on ecology and environmental protection OSCE Centre in Bishkek, E.Dzhumakadyrova, employees of SAEPF, representatives of the State Inspection on Environmental and Technical Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic, district administration, city hall of Cholpon-Ata and different CBOs, NGOs, PFs. The round table was provided with information on the activities of Aarhus Centre and Strategic Development Plan for 2015-2018 years was presented. Cooperation with local organizations and the implementation of work plans of the Aarhus Centre in the region were discussed. During the discussion, problems about environmental protection in region were raised. The biggest problem of the lake Issyk-Kul is the pollution of the coastal territory. . Pollution of the territory happens not only because of tourists but also because of local residents. In addition, there are problems with sewage system, water treatment facilities and increasing the load on the water utility of Cholpon-Ata because of new hotels and private holiday homes.

Many speakers suggested the possibility of opening a branch of Aarhus Centre in the area. This will open up a platform for joint actions to identify possible ways to solve environmental problems in region. This will contribute to join efforts and start training events. Moreover it will help to hold discussions and hearings on the search for preservation and improvement of the state environment. This roundtable was widely covered in the media and on television.



b) On the 23 June, 2015, in the library of Kant city in Chui region at the Issyk-Ata district a Roundtable discussion on “Aarhus Convention – Protection Tools and Preserve the environment” was held. Aarhus Centre in Bishkek organized it with the support of the OSCE center in Bishkek in collaboration with the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The roundtable was attended by representatives of the regional state administration bodies, the media, NGOs, CBOs, NGO and civil society. The welcome address on behalf of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek was delivered by E.Dzhumakadyrov the coordinator of the project department of environmental economics and environmental protection, on behalf of secretary of SAEP was delivered by B.Abdiev and on behalf of the head of the district administration apparatus was delivered by M.Alybaev. The discussion addressed to the issues of environmental conservation in the Kyrgyz Republic and particular in the Chui region. Particular attention and concern of the participants was aimed to the problems of pollution from industrial enterprises in the region. Industrial waste and spontaneous dumps violate the sanitary-epidemiological situation and environmental safety. In this regard, the participants expressed their wishes to pay special attention to this issue and pay attention to the relevant services who will track them. Also, preservation of glaciers in Kyrgyzstan actively was discussed. Residents of the area are closely watching how the discussions and acceptance of this issue in the Jokorku Kenesh of KR are going. During the discussion, a question about occupancy rate of Toktogul reservoir was raised. This is a matter of public concern, because it’s effect on the electricity supply at the wintertime and increase consumption prices of electricity.



c) On July 9, 2015 in the city of Talas of Talas region was realized a round table on a subject: "Participation of the public in the solution of environmental issues". It was organized by OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek with participation of SAEPPF. The local coordinator of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek of Talas region A.Iliyazov briefly outlined the audience about the Aarhus Convention, the importance of its acceptance and the main provisions of the Convention itself. On this event working plans of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek were presented. In addition the strategy of activity development of the Aarhus Centers was elaborated for the purpose of support to the State agency of environmental protection and forestry in effective short-term and medium-term planning of realization of activities for promotion of the basic principles of the Aarhus Convention in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2018. Member of international public organization "Global Water Partnership" Djailoobaev A. has presented on the subject "Issues of the state of affairs on water and land use in the region", where he reported on condition of water resources in Kyrgyzstan and methods of using it for agriculture in the regions of the country, including in the Talas region. Information was provided on the problematic issues of land use in protected and specially protected areas in the region. The participants' of roundtable discussed all the presentation with interest; later on they asked several questions.



d) On July 31, 2015 in city Naryn of Naryn Region a round table on a subject «Urgent environmental issues and problems: value of participation of the public and awareness of the

population» was conducted. It was organized by the OSCE Center in Bishkek and the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek with the assistance of the State agency of environmental protection and forestry (SAEPF) under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. In the work of a round table more than 60 invited participants took part, among which there were representatives of government institutions of Naryn regional administration and city hall of Naryn, local authorities (ayil okmot), territorial administration of SAEPF and GIETB, the director of national wildlife sanctuary and parks, members of the media, NGO, OO, OF and civil community. Yrysbeek Choibalsan uulu - local coordinator of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek Naryn region made presentation on subject "Brief information about the Aarhus Convention". He briefly told the audience about the Aarhus Convention, about the basic principles and provisions of the Convention itself. Then I made presentation on subject "About the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and the tasks on the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the KR of Aarhus Centres in the 2015-2018 years". Presentation included management structure, methods of work and main directions of the Strategic Development Plan. During the discussion of the reports about the Aarhus Convention and the plans of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek several questions were asked. Basically questions pertained to public awareness about the Aarhus Convention, work plans of the Aarhus Centre, environmental issues in the mining industry, garbage in parks and protected areas and possible cooperation with NGOs and CBOs in the area for conservation of the environment.

The second part of the round table was dedicated to submission of Department of Forest Ecosystem Development and SAEPF the project for public discussion on "The order of use of lands of state parks". A report on this issue was made by Deputy Director of the Department B.K. Yrsaliev. He spoke about necessity of adoption of the project and the use of civil procedure. Discussion of the project in the hearing held with interest, rapidly and actively. Each article has been carefully studied, observations and suggestions were made. In total, 9 articles amended in this project.



- Activity 2.5. Promotion of public participation in decision-making.

- a) This activity involves the provision of assistance to the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek in the work of the Public Council of the SAEPF. On 28 August and 2-3 September 2015, Aarhus Centre conducted several meetings with the Chairman and members of the Public Council on the preparations for the meetings of the Board. They were requested to assist in solving some organizational issues and in the carrying out the meeting.
- b) On 11 September 2015, the first meeting of the Public Council under the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was held. A work plan for the years 2015-2016 was adopted at the meeting. According to this activity it is supposed to assist the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek in the work of the Public Council of the SAEPF. The Centre will provide support in the preparation of the Public Council's materials for the meeting. In addition, Centre will make various proposals on the agenda for consideration by the Council and provide arrangements for off-site meetings of the Council. Close co-operation with the Public Council will give to Centre the opportunity to enhance cooperation between state structures with the public, granting and review of the information and materials on issues of concern in the field of environmental conservation, take into account the opinion and defend the environmental rights of civil society.

- Activity 2.6. Trainings for Judges and Lawyers

- a) To implement these activities by the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek in September - October 2015 the preliminary activities were carried out. Thus, the Training Center of judges at the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic was signed a memorandum. It is planned to carry out joint training for judges, prosecutors and lawyers. A working group composed of SAEPF staff, the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic and the human rights organization «LBD», who will prepare for the beginning of September 2015 training module. The purpose of these training sessions is to teach them the basics of using of legislative acts in the field of ecology and environmental protection



b) On November 12, 2015 training in the conference hall of the hotel "Europe" in Bishkek was conducted. The training was conducted by the Aarhus Centre and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek with the support of SAEPF. The training was dedicated to the subject of "Fundamentals of the Aarhus Convention and methods of implementation of the principle "Access to justice in matters relating to the environment". This training was organized for representatives of human rights organizations, NGOs, CBOs, lawyers in private practice, lawyers, university lecturers and specialists in the field of law.



The purpose of the training: learning the basics of the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention taking into account the legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic, enhancing the capacity of the participants of the training on the application of the principle of the Convention "Access to Justice in Environmental Matters". The training focused on necessity of the correct interpretation of the laws and legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environment. This training is of particular importance in matters of personnel training, who will provide assistance to citizens and stakeholders in obtaining protection in case of violation of their environmental rights. That in turn will provide application of solutions skills in accordance with the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic. It provides stability in the society and decrease the negative impact of the use of anti-constitutional norms.

c) On November 18, 2015 in the conference hall of hotel "Sunrise-2" in Osh, Osh region the second training on the subject of "Access to the justice in the questions related to the environment" was conducted. It was organized by the Aarhus Center of KR in cooperation with Center OSCE in Bishkek with the support of Governmental Agency of environment protection and forestry under the Government of Kyrgyz Republic. In this training the representatives of juridical organizations, NGO, the Ombudsman of area, private lawyers, professors of law faculties of universities in the region and a variety of experts from the state environmental agencies of the southern region participated. This training is the prolongation of the planned by Aarhus Center in Bishkek program of learning the basics of application of the provisions of Aarhus Convention taking into account the normative legal acts of Kyrgyz Republic. The Center aimed to cover all the regions of the country and representatives of public to study and correct interpretation of laws and normative legal acts of Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environment. This will give us an ability to prepare qualified experts, which will provide legal help in the question of protection their ecological rights.



III) Information on the achievements of the objectives:

The Centre is working to assist in the implementation of SAEPF functions related to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, the implementation of its principles in public administration in the field of environmental protection and the development of public environmental rights protection system in the Kyrgyz Republic. Aarhus Centre, acting with the support of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, "offers" space in the public sphere, in which joint responsibility for the environment and the consequent environmental rights can be applied in practice. Our Centre provides a platform on which the public can meet to discuss issues related to environmental protection and to make the necessary proposals for joint actions, including government agencies. Aarhus Centres for 2015 conducted 4 workshops, 5 round tables, 2 environmental actions, 1 public hearing on the NPA, 3 meeting with university students, 1 meeting with representatives of media, and 1 individual interview to the newspaper "Evening Bishkek". Also, employees of the Center took part in the 13 round tables and seminars organized by our partners. Employees of Aarhus Centre in Bishkek participated in 2 international meetings organized by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. In all these activities we have paid special attention to the provision of information to the public and the various structures of the Aarhus Centre, on the objectives and planned activities, and the emphasis was placed on joint working in partnership to implement the tasks. The outcome of the round tables was the interest of NGOs, CBOs, PF, various associations and civil society to work together to implement the principles of the Aarhus Convention. Due to this today Aarhus Centre has more than 50 partner organizations and interested experts, who are included in our database. It should be noted that we have established contacts with state structures and mutual understanding in the promotion of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Special interest in cooperation expressed representatives from SAEPF with regional offices, State inspection of environmental and technical safety of Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, The State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations, provincial, municipal and district administrations, aiyl okmotu, council and heads of villages. Trust and partnership has allowed the Centre to present the SAEPF at 2 international meetings under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention.

To inform the public about the state of affairs in the preservation of the environment during all activities information materials were distributed that have been developed by staff

from the Aarhus Center jointly with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek with our partners from Osh. These materials were developed: poster Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, Poster of the Aarhus Convention, book and news stories, CDs and newsletters, provided by our partners, and we printed presentations and press releases.



The work of our Center have been published in the media materials: newspapers "Evening Bishkek" Bishkek "Znany Pobedi" Chui region, "Ail Demi" and "Tenir Too" Naryn region, "Talas Turmush" Talas region; correspondent of Radio "RadioMost" interviewed us in Talas region, information passed to the radio station "BBC" in Bishkek and "Azattyk" Naryn; TV - program "Ala-Too" in Bishkek, regional TV in Talas and Naryn regions; on web-sites: SAEPF, "EKOIS", "Kabar", "AkiPress", "Naryn.kg", "Region Kg", "Vesti kg", "Golos svobodi", «Ca-news», «Topnews» (Chronology materials published in the media and on TV included).

Recently, we created a web site: www.aarhus.kg, which contains all materials. All events that were organized by us, as reflected on this site.

Aarhus Centre in Bishkek signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with the Aarhus Centre in Osh, Bishkek representative of CAREC and with the Judicial Training Centre under the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic. «LBD» human rights organization is interested in signing the Memorandum. Due to the signed documents, we can plan joint projects and the timing of their implementation.

IV) Evaluation of the project, including the challenges and successes:

- The positive results of the Aarhus Center are:

- ✓ a) All regions of the northern part of the KR acquainted with the activities of Aarhus Centre and have information for further cooperation. It may also be noted that in each of these regions we acquired partners, who have agreed to assist us in the implementation of planned activities;
- ✓ b) A database with CBOs, PF, NGOs, human rights organizations, consultants, experts working in the field of preservation of the environment has been established.
- ✓ c) A strategic plan of development of Aarhus Centres in KR for the 2015-2018 years has been developed; Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan approved by the Director of SAEPF;
- ✓ d) Public library is opened, which can be used by any visitor;
- ✓ e) Memorandums and agreements on joint cooperation have been signed with partners;
- ✓ f) A new website of Aarhus Centres of KR was developed. With the help of we can share our materials with visitors not only from Kyrgyzstan, but also abroad (translated into English);
- ✓ g) Aarhus Centre information stand is set near the building of SAEPF (Bishkek, Gorkogo str. 142), which is updated on a monthly basis;
- ✓ h) Centre is working closely with the Public Council of the SAEPF and assisting in the work;
- ✓ i) Activities of the Aarhus Centre is constantly highlighted in the media and on electronic sites;
- ✓ j) established close contacts with the National Coordinator of the Aarhus Convention in KR;
- ✓ k) Established close contacts with the representatives of political parties on the implementation of joint plans in practical matters of environmental conservation.
- ✓ l) expanded cooperation with students and increased the list of volunteers of the Centre;
- ✓ m) with the creation of eco-clubs in universities, we can carry out joint activities:
 - - competition will now pursue interuniversity festivals and competitions on ecology;
 - - young people can gain knowledge on ecology and participate in various competitions and presentations;
- ✓ n) our materials published on various websites and in social networks;
- ✓ o) expanded the list of partners in the region and began to teach them according to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention;
- ✓ p) joint activities with international organizations gives us the opportunity in the creation of partnerships and the implementation of various programs in the future;

- ✓ q) close contacts with representatives of the media will give us an opportunity to bring information to the readers on time and fully;
- ✓ r) Training on justice will give us the opportunity to broaden the qualified experts for the protection of environmental rights of citizens and subjects of the KR.

- ***Problematic issues*** for today are:

- Not all NGOs accept us as partners. They consider us as competitors
- Due to the large distances and the lack of permanent missions in the region we do not have time to be mobile. Our partners from Cholpon-Ata, Talas and Naryn asked about opening of the branches of the Centre in the city.
- due to lack of staff qualified lawyer ecologist some issues (legal advice, questions and answers on our website, study materials aimed at judicial review, etc.) have to be viewed from the help of human rights organizations, and it will affect the additional financial costs;
- Due to reporting to the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the study of materials on the Aarhus Convention and Aarhus Centers of foreign countries and translating materials for the electronic site of our Centre, we need an assistant translator, who should speak English and Kyrgyz written languages;
- replenishment of new books for our library;
- The necessity to familiarize and to look at the work of other partner Aarhus Centres, who have more experience.

V) **Expected results:**

- - we intend to become an organization that can enhance the interaction between government agencies and NGOs, CBOs, PF and other non-profit organizations, to promote cooperation in environmental conservation and protection of environmental rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- - examining the situation in the field of the environment and collecting available information, we will create a database on the state of the environment at a certain period. We will inform the public about the problems in the environment, which requiring making a decision;
- - jointly with SAEPF we will develop cooperation with state agencies, offering ideas on issues of environmental public right to receive information effectively in the field of ecology and environmental;

- - organize network through existing partner NGOs that interested in the joint co-operation in matters of environmental protection in the regions of the country;
- - After carry out training for the lawyers, we prepare specialists who can efficiently treat and protect the legal rights of citizens in the field of environmental protection;
- - organize a group of expert consultants who will participate in our efforts to carrying out consultative, organizational and methodical activities;
- - with the help of site will extend the ideas for the implementation of plans and offer electronic information portals to use our materials to spread information to wider public;
- - with the help of the future Press Club from representatives of the media partners that will be in close contact to cover the situation in matters of environmental protection and violations in the field of environmental law;
- - after negotiations with the political parties our materials will be used in the program documents;

VI) Participation in seminars and meetings organized by our partners:

- ❖ 1). On January 29, 2015 in the conference hall of the building SAEPF the website "National report on the state protection of the KR" was presented. Web-site developed under component MONECA, «FLERMONECA» project. This component of the project is carried out on the instructions of the SAEPF, and is designed to obtain opinions of the public during the preparation of the national report. Web site was introduced to us, which will be the main electronic document in the preparation of the report.
- ❖ 2). On January 30, 2015 in the conference hall of "Bishkek City" in Bishkek introductory seminar of FAO project "Sustainable management of mountain forests and land resources in a changing climate" was held. This seminar was attended by representatives of the Jogorku Kenesh, the Kyrgyz Government, ministries and agencies, authorized representatives of Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the regions of the country, international institutions, NGOs, CBOs, foundations and other organizations. The project was presented during the seminar, which was carried out by FAO in support of SAEPF with Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic for 3 years. The main focus of this project will be the implementation of an efficient and safe resource management of the country on the part of government agencies as well as reducing the degradation of arable land and an increase in Forest Fund.
- ❖ 3). On 19-20 March 2015, at «Jannat Resort» in Bishkek first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Programme for the conservation of the snow leopard and its

ecosystems was held. This meeting were organized by SAEPF, the Secretariat of the Global Programme GSLEP, Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF / SGP), Global Tiger Initiative (GTI), Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB) and the World wildlife Fund (WWF). During the meeting, the Steering Committee participants reviewed with information on the progress in the implementation of the Global Programme. In the same meeting identified the role of the Steering Committee and the Programme Secretariat. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the final resolution of the Steering Committee. The Meeting unanimously elected the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Ministry of Climate Change) as Chairman and the Kyrgyz Republic (represented by SAEPF) as co-chair of the Steering Committee. Landscape management plan was adopted to achieve the goal of the Global Program for conservation of the snow leopard and its ecosystems. It is planned to maintain 23 landscapes by 2020. Participants noted the critical situation in the matter of conservation of the snow leopard populations in places of residence and the importance of urgent and concerted action by governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector aimed at preserving the unique and mysterious snow leopard.

- ❖ 4). On 4 August 2015, in the conference hall of the hotel "Park Hotel" in Bishkek a new project of UNDP "Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information" has been presented. The program document is designed for long-term result of the UNDP strategic plan. The implementation of this document will be crucial in environmental matters, the implementation of plans to obtain long-term and short-term results in the field of ecology and the participation of all parties of the project. The main partners of the project are the UNDP of the Kyrgyz Republic, SAEPF and local authorities together with the civil society.
- ❖ 5). On 24-26 August 2015, in the conference hall of the hotel «Vityaz», Chok-Tal, in Issyk-Kul region enlarged meeting of the Interdepartmental Commission for Co-operation of the Kyrgyz Republic with the Global Environment Facility has passed. The meeting was chaired by S. Atadjanov, Director of SAEPF under the Government of KR with the support of UNDP "Environment Protection for Sustainable Development" program. The meeting was attended by representatives of ministries and departments of the Kyrgyz Republic and non-governmental and international organizations involved in environmental activities. During the meeting the interim results of project activities implemented by UNDP, FAO, UNEP, World Bank and other international institutions within the framework the fourth and fifth cycles were discussed. GEF Small Grants Programme was discussed too. Participants of the meeting noted the importance of this meeting, the outcome of which should serve to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the GEF projects, exchange of experience and knowledge, as well as the strengthening of cooperation between the parties involved.

Following the discussion, the GEF programs and projects in Kyrgyzstan, as well as on the basis of the government priorities in the field of environmental protection and the GEF priorities, stakeholders at the meeting agreed to strengthen cooperation and identified the next steps for the effective implementation of GEF projects. In addition participants noted that one of the important issues/element of project management is a public awareness and outreach on

various projects implemented in Kyrgyzstan in the framework of the GEF project. As stated by Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, "The main aspect of the project implementation is in communication with people and population." Members of the UNDP noted the importance of cooperation with the Aarhus Centre in Kyrgyzstan in the issue of public awareness. Members of the UNDP noted that public awareness is an important element in GEF projects. UNDP and the Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan can serve as an important channel to resolve the issue of informing the population, reports and provision of information and data to the public and training of the population.

- ❖ 6). On 11 September 2015, in the conference room "Shaiyr" of hotel "Hyatt Regency" in Bishkek presentation of services "Open Parliament" and "Open School" was held. Presentation was organized by PF «IT Attractor», with the support of "Soros-Kyrgyzstan" Fund and the World Bank. This event was attended by representatives of state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic, international and non-governmental organizations and the media. The presentation was devoted to the improvements of prototype applications developed on the basis of the open data according to the results of Central Asian Hackaton. This meeting included reports of the leading experts on open data, achievements and projects that developed within the framework of Central Asian Hackaton on open data.
- ❖ 7) On 16 September 2016 in the conference hall of the hotel "Hyatt" in Bishkek international conference on "Cooperation in the field of environment between Finland and Kyrgyzstan" was held. It was organized by the Government of Finland and the SAEPF. At this conference Finnish Environment Institute presented their project "SYKE", which is carried out in the waters of Lake Issyk-Kul. The project is called "ProektKGZ-Water / Issykul". The main objective of the project is to monitor the state of the lake and make proposals to improve the state of water. This project will be coordinated by the SAEPF and has great perspective in cooperation with the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek.
- ❖ 8). On 17-18 September, 2015 in the conference hall of the hotel "Bishkek City" Bishkek Regional Technical Seminar on the fight against illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia was held. It was organized by the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Global Programme Secretariat GSLEP, the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF / SGP), Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) the Programme of the United Nations (UNDP) and Interpol. During the workshop participants worked on a joint strategy for best way to use the knowledge and experience of all relevant institutions and work together to solve the problem. The participants discussed the issues of strengthening inter-agency cooperation, identified priorities in the process of collection and exchange of information at the national and international level. In addition participants developed a strategic plan for monitoring and countering wildlife crime.
- ❖ 9). On 12 October 2015, at the Regional office of GIZ in Bishkek, second meeting of the Advisory Council was held. It was decided to the coordination and organization of activities on the development directions and approaches of reforming the Kyrgyz forestry sector. It was chaired by SAEPF with the support of GIZ. Following the meeting, Advisory and Coordinating Council (ACC) adopted a number of initial decisions to advance the reform process. Required documents for ACC are approved. Documents developed by the expert group on regulation of activities of the pilot forestry enterprises were reviewed.

- ❖ 10). On 14 October 2015, a seminar in the conference hall of the SAEPFs building on the topic: "Raising awareness and capacity to participate in international action on the Durban Platform for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and related issues" was held. A seminar was organized by the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The seminar was attended by representatives of the World Wildlife Fund, representatives of ministries and departments, public and international organizations. During the workshop, issues related to the Durban UNFCCC Platform were discussed. Two presentation were on the subject of "Building a new agreement for the period after 2020 and decisions on action to 2020, the outlook for the Kyrgyz Republic and other countries" and "Possibilities of access to international funding adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change projects". In addition, a contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic in international action for a new climate agreement (INDC) presented information about their progress. Participants were informed about project on "The conservation of biodiversity and adaptation of communities in the Central Tien Shan". Finally, questions to the speakers were raised and discussed possible joint actions to strengthen the Kyrgyz Republic's participation in the activities of the UNFCCC and related international initiatives.
- ❖ 11). On 19 October 2015, in Osh Aarhus Centre in Bishkek participated in summarizing the Regional competition of ecological journalism. This event was organized by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek with the support of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan and in Hudzhant, Sogd region of Tajikistan. This competition was devoted to raising public environmental awareness and environmental management in the context of disaster risk management in the border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Winners were determined in 5 nominations among journalists of both countries. During the summing up of the contest workshops for journalists writing on environmental issues were conducted. Sightseeing trip to Osh region to get acquainted with the work related to environmental conservation and disaster prevention were conducted.
- ❖ 12). On 24 November 2015, in the office of LLC «Talas Copper Gold» in Bishkek meeting of the Mineral Resources Committee was held. It was organized by International Business Council. The participants of the meeting were representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kyrgyz Mining Association, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, the legal company "Kalikova & Associates" and KGT. During the meeting a presentation on "Legal analysis of the KR legislation regulating regional development funds" was presented. During the presentation, participants discussed the gap in KR legislation, problematic issues and controversies in the field of regional development of funds. Representatives of the company "Kalikova & Associates " analyzed two Laws of KR - "On the basic principles of budget law in the Kyrgyz Republic" and "On non-tax payments", as well as typical provisions on the formation of funds for regional development, approved by the Decree of the Government. At the end of the presentation, representatives of the company "Kalikova & Associates" and participants considered only the options to address the problematic issues and contradictions in the legislation, one of which was the introduction of changes and amendments to the aforementioned Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic and in the Model Regulations. At the end of the presentation, representatives of the company "Kalikova & Associates" and participants considered only the options on elimination problematic issues

and contradictions in the legislation. One of which was the introduction of changes and amendments to the aforementioned Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic and in the Model clause. Participants of the meeting decided to hold the next meeting later.

- ❖ 13). On 24 November 2015, in the conference hall of the department forest and hunting arrangements at SAEPF a public hearing was held. The hearing was devoted to draft decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “The rules for issuing permits for the cutting of valuable tree species in the Kyrgyz Republic”. The organizer of this hearing was SAEPF. This hearing was attended by representatives of regional offices of SAEPF, representatives of the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State Inspectorate for ecological and technical safety under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the International Business Council and non-governmental organizations. At the hearing the draft decree of Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of authorization rules on cutting especially valuable tree species in the Kyrgyz Republic" was presented. This project was developed in order to resolve the issues in the field of issuing permits for the cutting of valuable tree species, and to bring into conformity with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the end of the hearing, after discussing the points of the project, participants suggested SAEPF to make all of the proposed changes, additions and corrections before submission of the project to the Apparatus of the Government of KR.

A.Nurbekov

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