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Annual report 2020

1) Brief revision of project tasks:

In accordance with the signed Memorandum of 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 assigned to the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek:

- interaction between environmental non-profit organizations, government agencies, local governments, international organizations and other stakeholders;
- creation of information/analytical and training materials, based on official information and results of research, to present objective information to general public and systematically increase the potential of all stakeholders;
- promoting cooperation between environmental organizations and their potential partners among international and non-profit organizations.

2) Summary of activities:

The activities of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, according to the signed contract with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, began on March 5, 2020 and ended on December 5, 2020.

In view of the fact that since March 2020, due to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, Kyrgyzstan has introduced a quarantine for public events with the participation of civil society, many events were held with a limited number of participants, and some events held online. All activities were carried out in accordance with the sanitary requirements of the Republican Headquarters for the Prevention of Diseases of Covid-19.

Activities of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek

Activity 2.2. "Conducting a series of round tables on the state of the environment in Kyrgyzstan"

A) Round table in Talas region (limited number of participants)

Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Talas Territorial Administration of the SAEPPF, held a round table in Talas on October 1, 2020 on the topic "The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Nationally Determined Contributions of the Kyrgyz Republic. Application of the Aarhus Convention to inform civil society on climate change problems". The seminar was held in the conference hall of the Talas Lyceum of Foreign Languages. The seminar itself was attended by employees of the Lyceum, representatives of the civil society and the Talas Department of the Environment Protection.



During the seminar, the problems of climate change, the impact of global warming on human life, environment and ecology of the region were discussed. Opinions were expressed on the need to take specific measures to reduce greenhouse gases and improve the state of atmospheric air.

B) Round table in the Chui region.

On October 12, 2020, in Alamedin district of Chui region, in the conference hall of Hyde Park hotel, Aarhus Centre in Bishkek together with the public association "National Water Partnership" with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek held a round table. The topic of the round table was "Participation of women of Kyrgyzstan in water resources management". The seminar was attended by



members of the public association "NVP", teachers of National Agrarian Academy named after N. Skryabin, experts and consultants of Aarhus Centre. The objective of the round table was to discuss the real steps of women's participation in management structures, particular in water resources.

The head of Aarhus Centre A. Nurbekov made presentations with information about the activities of the AC. Director of the NGO "NWP KR" K. Musabayeva presented the problems of women's participation in water policy. After presentations, many participants discussed the problems of women's participation in the management of various structures, gender imbalance in various sectors of the economy, unfair treatment of women's participation in government. After discussion it was decided to increase the need to conduct such hearings in various events.

B) Round table in Bishkek

According to schedule and taking into account the quarantine, Aarhus Centre held an online seminar in Bishkek on November 24. The seminar was attended by representatives of state institutions working in the field of ecology, public organizations, foundations, universities, scientific institutions, media, environmental experts and projects partners.



The main objective of the seminar was to discuss with partners status in the field of the environment in the face of climate change and increasing problems with the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, especially in winter. This, in turn, affects the well-being of the population, increases the burden on the environment, worsens the health of the population, especially near industrial and energy enterprises. This was repeated several times by the participants of the seminar and offered their proposals for improving the attitude of public services to these problems.

Activity 2.3. "Conducting regional contests in environmental journalism in Talas, Issyk-Kul, Naryn regions and Bishkek"

In accordance with the approved work plan, from June 15 to September 15, 2020, Aarhus Centre organized an environmental contest among media representatives called "Eco-journalist 2020". It was held in Talas, Naryn, Issyk-Kul regions and Bishkek city. The conditions for the event were approved, nominations were established, and members of the commission were selected. For successful implementation and involvement, the OSCE Program Office in Bishkek purchased souvenirs and developed diplomas. Any journalist or professional information expert could participate in the competition. The competition was attended by about 70 applicants from all regions where the competition was held. Of these, 36 participants became winners, 9 people each in each region. All winners received diplomas and souvenirs. This competition showed the interest of media representatives who submitted a large number of materials, but at the same time, due to quarantine, some journalists were unable to take an active part. At the same time, they have expressed a request to organize similar competitions next year and hope to take part in future competitions.



Issyk-Kul



Bishkek



Talas



Naryn

Activity 2.4. "Development and printing of a brochure on the work done by the Network of Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan for 2019-2020"

According to the strategic plan of the Aarhus Centers, a brochure on the activities of the Centres is prepared and printed every 2 years. This year, a brochure for 2019-2020 was developed, which briefly presents the activities of the network of Aarhus Centres. The brochure contains visual information about the main areas of activity, the best examples of the activities carried out and the results of the tasks. This brochure is intended for distribution to partners, consultants and a wide range of stakeholders.



Activity 2.5. "Conducting field monitoring of the state of water resources of the Son-Kol lake and the Talas river"

Aarhus Centre in Bishkek carried out monitoring work on the state of natural water reserves in 2 regions: from June 14 to 16 in Talas region and from June 23 to 24 in Naryn region. In Talas, Talas River was surveyed, and in Naryn, Son-Kol Lake. The main task of monitoring was to study the state of water for its pollution and impact on the environment. The Talas River is the main irrigation source in the region and is also the main fill in the nearby reservoir adjacent to the border with Kazakhstan in the northwest of the country. Son-Kol is one of the most beautiful protected lakes in our country. Therefore, it was decided to conduct surveys together with water specialists from the SAEPF laboratory and study the current organic state of the lake.



Monitoring was carried out within the framework of the approved Operational Strategy of the Aarhus Centres Network and work plan for 2020. Monitoring was attended by the head of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and two independent expert consultants. In Talas, experts carried out a water intake at different times and in different places of the Talas River to compare and provide objective information on the state of the water. On Son-Kol Lake, extensive water withdrawals have been carried out at several locations. The water and the bottom soil were taken with the help of the staff of Karatal-Zhapyryk reserve, who provided a motor boat and took direct part themselves together with the experts of the Aarhus Centre.



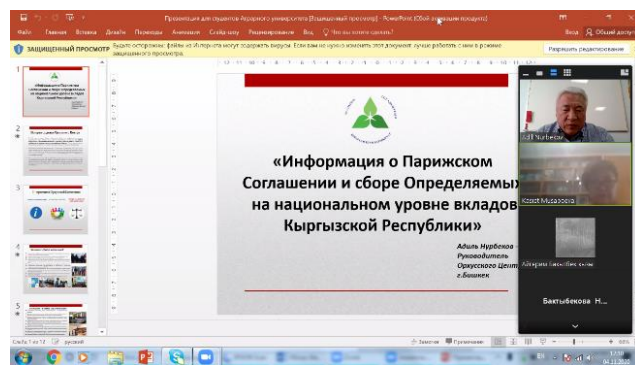
Activity 2.6. "Creation of eco-clubs"

According to the plans, Aarhus Centres decided to create eco-clubs at the Centres among those who have expressed a desire to participate in solving environmental issues and to assist the Aarhus Centres in various activities. Thus, in each region, clubs were created, which at their first meetings approved their work plan. Aarhus Centres have decided to assist in the establishment of eco-clubs and to conduct several trainings on planning and implementing events. To identify each member of the eco-club, Aarhus Centre ordered T-shirts and caps for each region, stationery was allocated for protocol orders and planning notes. It was decided to hold meetings of club members once a quarter for joint events.

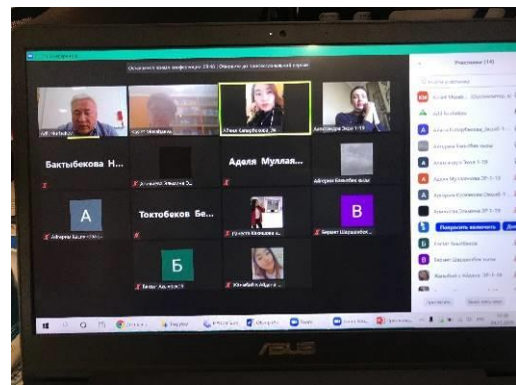
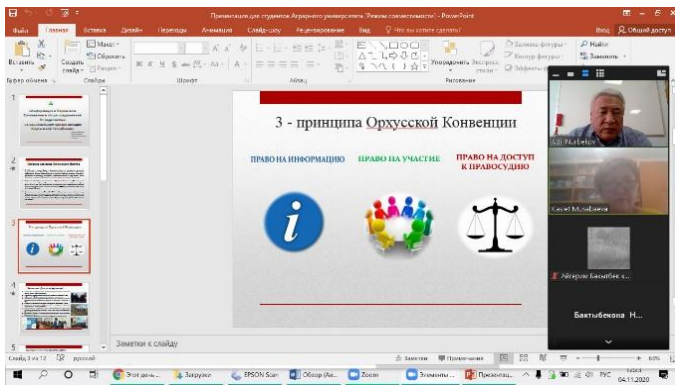


Activity 2.7. "Support of organization of a round table on environmental issues in Kyrgyzstan for students of environmental faculties" (online)

On November 4, 2020, the Aarhus Center in Bishkek organized an online meeting with students of the Faculty of Ecology of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University. N. Skryabin. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss problems in the field of environmental protection, climate change due to global warming, increased pollution of natural resources, human impact on environmental degradation. The main topic was to inform the participants about the Paris Agreement and the measures taken on NDCs.



At the beginning of the meeting, head of the Aarhus Center A. Nurbekov informed the participants of the meeting about the activities of the organization, events that held in the regions and plans for the future. As a result of the presentation, questions were asked regarding the activities and planned work with youth.



Then, the participants of the meeting moved on to discussing issues related to the problems of climate change and what kind of work non-governmental organizations are doing. A. Nurbekov briefly told them about the Paris Agreement on climate change, about the state policy in this direction, what an NDC is and what measures are proposed to be included in the NDC. He also noted the necessity of young people to participate in this process, as innovative ideas would contribute to a quality approach in developing recommendations for NDCs.

Activity 2.8. "Conducting environmental lectures for schoolchildren in Talas" (online)

When planning this activity, the Aarhus Center counted on conducting a training course for pupils of 9 secondary schools in Talas by hiring a training coach. For this, the trainer developed a module and prepared various information materials for schoolchildren. Due to quarantine and the transition to distance learning, it was necessary to change the order of training. For this purpose, together with the school principals, together with the Talas GORONO, it was decided to conduct one hour training for each school. An informational video was also developed for effective training. Thus, a large number of students took part in each school and the coverage turned out to be even greater than we expected. This training was well appreciated. Teachers present highlighted the effectiveness and quality of the course delivered and asked to organize the same course next year. As a result of the event, the Aarhus Centre received gratitude on behalf of the Talas GORONO.



Activity 2.9. «The support in conducting the subbotnik in Chui , Talas and Naryn region»

On September 18-19, 2020, the Aarhus Centres of Kyrgyzstan supported the environmental campaign “World Cleanup Day” and held subbotnik in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas regions. To organize these clean ups, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek purchased and handed over to the Aarhus Centres 150 shovels, 150 rakes, gloves and garbage bags. The volunteers of the Aarhus Centres, civil activists, youth and population of the regions took part in the cleanup. During the subbotniks, the territories of city parks, streets and country roads, squares and recreation areas of the population of the districts were removed. All the collected garbage was collected and transported to city and district dumps.



Chui region



Talas region



Naryn region



Issyk-Kul region

Aarhus Centres annually hold cleaning actions with their partners. We expressed our gratitude to everyone who joined our action and took part in subbotniks.

Activity 2.10. "Conducting an environmental competition among schoolchildren"

From September 15 to October 15, 2020 in the Issyk-Kul, Chui, Talas and Naryn regions, contests on the theme "Nature through the eyes of children" were held among secondary school students. This competition was held for the first time simultaneously in different regions by Aarhus Centres with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. About 8 thousand students from various schools took part in the competition, and 36 people from 4 regions became the winners.



Naryn city



Karakol city



Chui region



Talas city

This competition attracted great interest among the students. In total, more than 4 thousand works were presented in the form of homemade forgeries, written essay and drawings. It was decided to send the best of them to city and regional competitions organized by local education authorities. Also, media workers



became interested in the competition, they posted articles and photographs of the winners' works on the newspapers.

Also, on behalf of the Aarhus Centers, stationery, rare books about the history of Kyrgyzstan and encyclopedias for schoolchildren were transferred to several schools. The school representatives were especially pleased with the 10 volumes of Chingiz Aitmatov's works.



Issyk-Kul Aarhus Center activities

Activity 2.13. "Organization of a series of round tables to discuss the state of the environment of the Issyk-Kul region"

A) Round table in Cholpon-Ata

On September 25, 2020, in Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul region, in the hall of the building of the Issyk-Kul territorial administration of the SAEPPF, the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre, with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, a seminar was held on the topic “Application of the Aarhus Convention, informing civil society on climate change problems”. This event was held for civil society, environmental workers and NGOs. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was carried out with all sanitary standards that were approved by the Republican Headquarters for the Prevention of the Disease.



The main speakers of the seminar were A. Nurbekov, who spoke about the activities of the Aarhus Centres, about the programs being implemented and plans for 2020. Then V. Grebnev, an expert of the

Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, presented a presentation on the topic "Climate policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Paris Agreement" to the participants of the seminar. He briefly spoke about the policy of Kyrgyzstan in the application of the Paris Agreement. He was followed by A. Temirbekov, a consultant of the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek, who presented materials on the topic "Nationally Determined Contributions of Kyrgyzstan (NDC) and the Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions". In his submission, he documented the steps of Kyrgyzstan to amend the Paris Agreement through the application of NDCs.



As a result of the presentations, questions were asked from the seminar participants. At the end of the seminar, each participant was given materials from Aarhus Centres and manuals-reference books on legislation in the field of environmental protection.

B) Round table in Tyup district

On September 29, 2020, a meeting was held in Tyup village, Tyup district. The meeting was organized by the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre. The meeting was attended by the head of the Tyup village council Zh. Satybalдиеv and ayil okmotu employees.

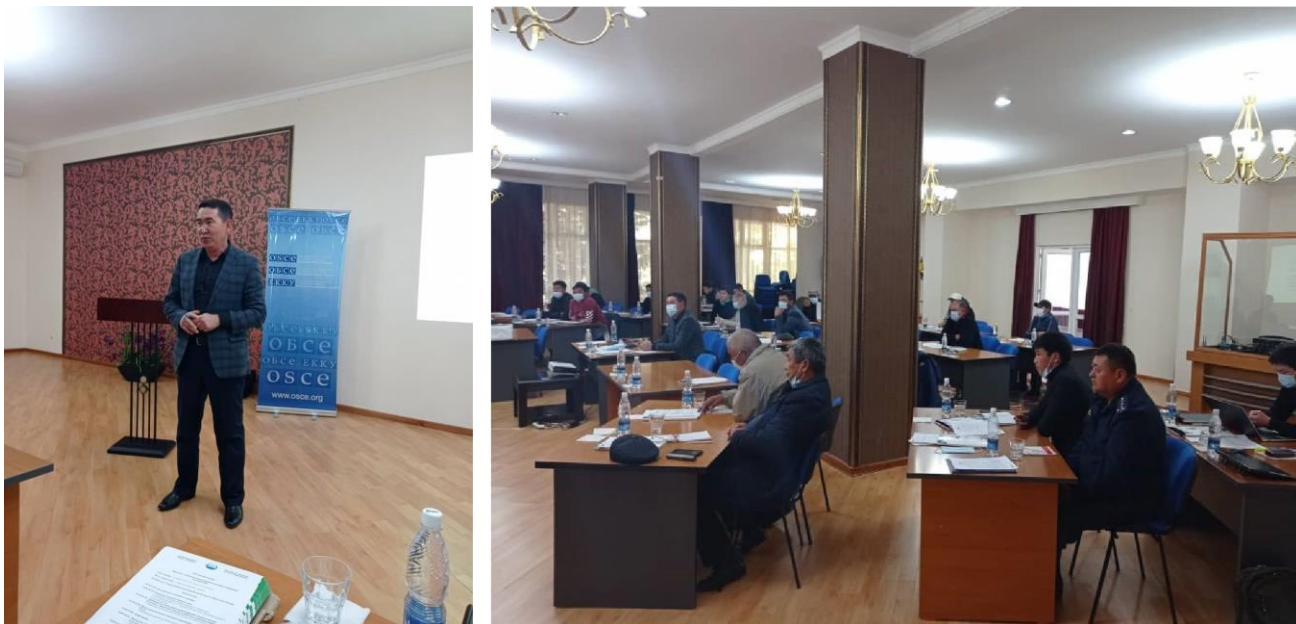


Manager of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre S. Tursunakunov made a presentation on the principles of the Aarhus Convention, about the work of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre for 2018-2019 and answered questions. During the meeting, the participants raised the main environmental problems of the Tyup village. Deputy ayil okmotu K. Kurmanaliev asked for help in carrying out environmental expertise to obtain documents on the landfill. They also expressed a desire to provide a land plot to investors who have the opportunity to build a mini waste processing plant. Participants asked to pay attention to the

rural beach of the village of Tyup. At the end of the meeting, the participants wished success in the work of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre and discussed joint work for 2021.

Activity 2.14. "Conducting a training seminar for operators of treatment facilities in the Issyk-Kul district of boarding houses"

October 7, 2020 in the village Sary-Oy, Issyk-Kul region in the conference hall of the "Raduga" boarding house, Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre with the financial support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek held a training seminar on the topic "Problems of maintenance of treatment facilities, ways of solving".



This seminar was organized for representatives of the business community, represented by employees of health resort organizations, sanatoriums, and boarding houses. The main goal of the workshop was to train them in the application of advanced technologies in wastewater treatment plants. The seminar was attended by U. Bekturganov - Chief Inspector of the Interregional Department of the State Ecological and Technical Inspection for Balykchy, Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul and Ton Districts, T. Mederbekov - Director of Bintek LLC, specialists of the Issyk-Kul Territorial Administration of SAEPF and operators of treatment facilities of boarding houses of the Issyk-Kul region.

U. Bekturganov made a welcoming speech, briefly spoke about the problems of treatment facilities of the Issyk-Kul district resorts, the need to train operators in new approaches, since their work is directly related to the ecology of Lake Issyk-Kul, and expressed gratitude to the organizers of the seminar for this training course.

At the beginning of the seminar, the manager of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre S. Tursunakunov made a presentation to the participants of the seminar on the principles of the Aarhus Convention, provided information on the results of the work of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre for 2019.

Then the course trainer, director of Bintek LLC T. Mederbekov, spoke to the participants of the seminar. He gave detailed information on the types of treatment facilities, on the principles of work, on problems during the operation.

The second part of the seminar was held in the form of practical exercises at the treatment plant of the "Raduga" boarding house. The work of the treatment plant "Topas" was shown on the spot.

T. Mederbekov explained to the participants the principle of operation of the treatment plant, the features of this structure from other types.



O. Shestova, a laboratory assistant at the Issyk-Kul territorial administration of SAEPF, explained the principle of collecting water analysis at treatment facilities and what types of laboratory tests are carried out.

At the end of the seminar, the participants were showcased a video filmed by divers of the public fund "Clean Issyk-Kul", discussed environmental issues, problems of treatment facilities, discussed proposals on measures to improve the ecological state of the region.

At the end of the seminar, all participants were awarded with training certificates.

Activity 2.15. "Assistance in cleaning up Lake Issyk-Kul"

On September 19, 2020, the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre together with the public fund "Clean Issyk-Kul" in a rural beach Bosteri held an action timed to coincide with the "World Cleanup Day".

The fund's divers, employees of the Issyk-Kol biosphere territory, Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre took part in the action. Due to bad weather conditions, the scheduled clean-up day in Issyk-Kul region did not take place. But despite the bad weather, the fund's divers brought up about 500 kg of various garbage from the bottom of the lake. All collected garbage was taken out by the equipment of the municipal enterprise "Bosteri Tazalyk" to the sanitary-technical landfill.



Activity 2.16. "Environmental monitoring of the forests of the Issyk-Kul region"

On June 12, 2020, together with the manager of the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre S. Tursunakunov, monitoring of the forests of the Jeti-Oguz region was carried out, namely the 32-quarter of the Jeti-Oguz forestry enterprise.

The terms of reference included:

- The thorough inspection of the state of the forest of the Jeti-Oguz region
- The revealing forest pollution and finding various debris
- the organic state of the forest
- the influence of the state of the forest on the well-being and health of people
- the influence of the state of the forest on the flora and fauna of the region.



The Aarhus Centres monitored the 32-quarter of the Kok-Zhaiyk gorge. The condition of the trees is satisfactory. In some places there are windblows (trees felled by the wind). To increase the area of the forest fund, seedlings of coniferous trees were planted. To protect against livestock, the territory of young seedlings is fenced. Saplings are grown in forestry nurseries on an area of 6 hectares.

Garbage is collected in a specially designated covered place, for this purpose garbage cans are installed. On the part of tenants, garbage collection is organized every three days. The forestry enterprise installed warning signs. All these actions are controlled by foresters.



Explanatory work is carried out to preserve the purity of nature and comply with fire safety requirements. But despite all these efforts and all warnings, dishonest citizens continue to throw away garbage. During the monitoring, we found the remains of various garbage (plastic bottles, plastic bags).

Activity 2.17. "Conducting an environmental competition among schoolchildren of the Ton district" (report in activity 2.10).

Activity 2.18. "Conducting training on environmental legislation for workers of ayil okmotu (rural municipalities) of the Issyk-Kul region"

On November 11, 2020, in Cholpon-Ata, in the conference hall of the Issyk-Kul territorial department of environmental protection and forestry, a training was held on the topic "Legal bases for solving environmental problems. The Role of Local Self-Government Bodies" organized by the Issyk-Kul Aarhus Centre. This training was organized for the heads of ayil okmotu of the Issyk-Kul region, the main goal of which is to improve the professional skills of leaders of local self-government bodies in working with laws in the field of environmental protection.



To conduct the training, specialists engaged in environmental activities and natural resources management U. Bekturganov and N. Asanova were involved as trainers. They were given the following technical tasks:

- to inform local authorities about the basics of environmental law;
- to tell about the peculiarities of national legislation;
- to discuss the impact on the environment;
- how to monitor the environment;
- types of violations and powers of LSG;
- types of penalties.

Trainer U. Bekturganov gave detailed information about the laws, by-laws of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environmental protection, about new codes, about the powers of local self-government bodies, about the types of violations, about the types and amounts of penalties.



From the side of the participants, there were many questions about the treatment facilities of guest houses, boarding houses, about the transformation of landfill lands, about the creation of a joint commission to inspect treatment facilities. The participants in the training noted that it will take more time to discuss the laws and asked to conduct such trainings and seminars with greater participation of the public.

Activities of the Aarhus Centre in Naryn

Activity 2.20. "Organization of round tables in the Naryn region on the application of the Aarhus Convention."

A) Meeting in the Naryn region

From 30 to 31 October 2020, Aarhus Centre in Bishkek and Naryn Aarhus Centre met with partners of the civil society of the Naryn region. First, the meeting was held with residents of the At-Bashinsky region in the Ak-Zhar village of the Ak-Dzhar ayil okmotu, where they met with the villagers and discussed environmental problems. During the meeting, the villagers raised the issues of pollution of the waterways of the Naryn River, land degradation, dryness of pastures. All this affects the well-being of the inhabitants of the region. These problems were raised to the representative of the ayil okmotu, who promised to bring them to the attention of his leadership. Then the AC representatives met with the residents of the Pervomai village of Taldy-Suu ayil okmotu. The problems of the residents of this village are similar to those of the previous villages in the given district. The difference is weak infrastructure and land pollution by waste.



B) Meeting in Kochkor region

The next day, representatives of the Aarhus Centres visited Kochkor region. The meeting took place in 2 villages of the region - Man-Tysh of Kara-Suu ayil okmotu and Kara-Kyya of Sary-Bulak ayil okmotu. Environmental problems occur due to the dishonest attitude of residents to nature itself. Violations of land issues and the impossibility of obtaining financial loans for projects were noted. This topic will be discussed with microcredit agencies, with which meetings were held last year to discuss a possible joint development plan for lending of environmental projects.

Aarhus Centres handed over to ayil okmotu several copies of books-collections of legal acts, reference books in the field of environmental protection and other literature on the Aarhus Convention.



Activity 2.21. “Conducting a seminar for UCA and Naryn State University students. S. Naamatova”
Due to the quarantine, all educational institutions are closed and training is conducted online.

A) Meeting with students of Naryn State University named after Naamatov

Aarhus Centre held a seminar for students of Naryn State University named after Naamatov with the assistance of the dean's office of the Faculty of Ecology during online lectures. At the request of the dean's office, the rector of the university, E. Baibagyshev, made a welcoming speech, who expressed gratitude for working with us and expressed confidence in the continuation of cooperation.



Then the Aarhus Center organized a discussion on the problems of environmental pollution and problems in ecology in general. Students and teachers of the university held a meeting with interest and expressed a desire to continue such meetings.



B) Meeting with UCA staff and students

A limited roundtable was held at UCA on November 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This event was organized by the Naryn Aarhus Centre. At this event, environmental protection, problems in educating young people to respect nature, environmental rights of the population of the region were discussed.



All participants in the meeting fully agreed with the proposal to strengthen work with youth and involve students in various environmental actions.

Activity 2.22. "Conducting an environmental competition among schoolchildren of the city of Naryn" (report in activity 2.10).

3) Expected results:

- Continuation of monitoring the state of the environment around settlements;
- Meetings and holding round tables with the invitation of interested persons and partners to discuss environmental issues in the regions;
- Conducting seminars and trainings for potential partners to build capacity and gain knowledge, taking into account changes in document flow;
- Together with the teaching staff of universities, continue to hold meetings with students to discuss environmental issues and search for new proposals from young people;
- Consideration of the possibility to open offices of Aarhus Centres in remote regions;
- Strengthening work on involving partners for the implementation of joint projects;
- Conducting training of partners from state environmental organizations on the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention for their activities.

Adil Nurbekov

Head of the institution "Aarhus Centre", Bishkek.