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Informational bulletin



Digital Informational Network on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russia



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TOPIC of the ISSUE

Dear readers,

Issue 11 of the CARNet bulletin is dedicated to participation of the civil society in addressing environmental issues and sustainable development on the national and regional levels.

The forms of active participation of public vary. This may be addressing local problems at the level of the local communities, national associations, like Ecoforums, participation in international associations and many others.

There is one common feature in all these forms – active civic attitude. This implies that today civil society does not shift off complex problems that should be solved, it undertakes responsibility for changes in the situation in its locality, city, or country being persistent in fulfilling the objectives.

Assistance to solving ecological problems, raising public awareness, dissemination of knowledge and improvement of decision making process in the area of environment and sustainable development – the tasks that are successfully fulfilled by the Digital Informational Network on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russia (CARNet).

Yours faithfully,

Alexey Kobzev

CARNet National Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Portal's announcement
pp. 6, 20
www.caresd.net

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA

NEWS, ANALYTICS, PROJECTS ETC...

WWW.CARESD.NET

The First Forum of NGOs of CA

In September 26-28, 2006, the First Forum of NGOs of Central Asia “Society, Environment, and Sustainable Development” was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan comprised of representatives of the government and nongovernmental organizations, youth ecological networks and mass media participated in the Forum.

Working Group of NGO of CA with one representative from each Central Asian country organized the Forum with support of Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) of CA, Regional Asian-Pacific Office of UNEP, Global Water Partnership of CA and Caucasus, Regional Ecological Center (REC) of CA.

The objective of the Forum was to establish Public Board (PB) under ICSD that will serve as a connecting-link between public communities and Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development. ▶



Participants of youth environmental network in Central Asia

to be continued on p. 2 ▶

Best Practices Competition
in the area of sustainable development in Central Asian countries

www.iln.caresd.net

to be continued on p. 9 ▶

The First Forum of NGOs of CA

The attempts to establish regional organization that would forward the interests of public communities of Central Asia on the international and regional level were already undertaken. There was an abortive attempt to establish Public Board under the International Fund for Aral Sea Salvation (IFASS). The attempt undertaken by the leaders of the well-known environmental organizations from five Central Asian countries to establish Public Board under Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development of CA (ICSD) succeeded. However this success required five years of hard work. Its leader were Sestager Aknazarov from Kazakhstan, Emil Shukurov, and later Oleg Pechenyuk from Kyrgyzstan, Firyuza Abdurakhimova from Tajikistan and Oleg Tsaruk from Uzbekistan. In 2002 the group acquired the status of the Working Group of NGO (WG NGO) on REAP on NP by the decision of ICSD. This allowed the Group to represent public community at the meetings of ICSD. Memorandum of Partnership and Cooperation between ICSD CA, Regional Office of UNEP and WG NGO as well as, Regulations of the Public Board (PB) under ICSD and work plan was prepared. In November 2004, the meeting of ICSD approved the Regulations on PB, and WG NGO became the executive body of PB. It was also decided to rework the action plan for participation of public in implementation of NP REAP CA for 2004-2006.

In June 2004, Central Asian countries held national seminars on development of regional mechanisms of participation of public in the process of NP RAP. The seminars discussed draft Regulations of the Public Board under ICSD and the concept of the programme of actions on organizing and developing participation of public in the process of implementation of NP RAP, candidates for PB under ICSD were proposed.

In December 2005 – January 2006, the seminars and forums “Society, Environment, and Sustainable Development” were held in the countries. The participants were briefed on the activity of PB under ICSD. The issue of preparation of the ecological forum of NGOs on the subregional level with the aim of joining the efforts and making participation in international environmental processes and decision making on transboundary environmental problems more active was discussed. Participants proposed the agenda of the subregional forum of representatives of GOs and NGOs of Central Asian countries, discussed establishment of the regional network of the youth ecological organizations and other networks of the Central Asian communities. Networks of the youth ecological organizations were established at the seminars with the

aim of supporting and developing existing organizations and active citizens, establishing new youth NGO that will be then included into the network. [the beginning on p. 1](#)

The goal of the first Forum of NGOs of CA was developing the basis for uniting the representatives of communities of Central Asia in solving transboundary problems, and implementing national programmes on sustainable development.

Public Board under the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development

Kazakhstan:

*Atakhanova Kaisha, Ecoforum Kazakhstan;
Izteleuova Shynar, PF “Tan”;
Levin Vladimir, PF “Farmer Kazakhstan”;*

Kyrgyzstan:

*Bortsova Svetlana, PO “Independent Environmental Expertise”;
Grebnev Vladimir, CARNet Network;
Pechenyuk Oleg, PO “Independent Environmental Expertise”;*

Tajikistan:

*Burkhanova Muazzama, Civic Initiatives Support Fund;
Abdurakhimova Firyuza, Environmental Guard/
UNEPCOM;
Idrisov Timur, NGO “For the Earth”;*

Turkmenistan:

*Ibragimov Akmuhammed, Society on Nature Protection;
Eeberdyev Bekmurad, ICSD;*

Uzbekistan:

*Sanginov Saidrasul, NGO «Logos»;
Kamalov Yusup, Alliance for Protection of Aral and Amudarya;
Domuladjanov Ibragimjon, NGO “For Environmentally Sound Fergana”;*

Youth Environmental Network:

Vetoshkin Dmitriy, BIOM

An important objective of the Forum was to inform on regional activity of ICSD and UNEP, activity of NGOs and their associations in Central Asia. The Forum discussed wide range of issues concerning activity of NGOs, their place and role in fulfilling the obligations of CA under various environment agreements. General approaches to more active participation of nongovernmental organizations in nature protection and sustainable development were also discussed. ►

[to be continued on p. 5 ►](#)

ICSD – a decision making system for sustainable development of Central Asia

Common environmental problems join Central Asian countries in their efforts to strengthen regional cooperation. In order for these efforts and decisions to be effective and efficient there should be systematic and scrupulous work carried out to coordinate interaction among all participants in the process. Such a coordinating structure in environment and sustainable development area of Central Asia for more than 10 years has been the Interstate Committee for Sustainable Development (ICSD).

On its different fields of activities we talk with Irina Mamieva, an Academic Secretary of ICSD Information Science Center, Candidate of Geography.

Svetlana Gamolya (S.G.): Irina Jumaevna, when did the regional environmental and sustainable development cooperation of CA countries start?

Irina Mamieva (I.M.): Following the UN Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, which took place in 1992 in Rio-de-Janeiro, Central Asian countries started implementing sustainable development programs and the first interstate structure – International Fund for Aral Sea Salvation – was established by 5 countries of Central Asia in 1993 in Tashkent.

Today the International Fund for Aral Sea Salvation includes the Board of IFASS, Review Committee, Executive Committee, Filial Branches of Executive Committee in CA states, the Interstate Committee for Water Coordination, its Secretariat and the Information-Science Center (ISC ICSD).

S.G.: What has caused the need for establishment of the Interstate Committee for Sustainable Development within the IFAS?

I.M.: As the environmental cooperation between countries was developing and expanding the need has risen for more accurate coordination, which would make these countries joint efforts more effective and efficient. Today these tasks – coordination and management of regional cooperation in environment and sustainable development area are pursued by the ICSD. ICSD was established by the resolution of Presidents of CA countries, which was adopted at IFAS session in Ashgabat on 18 July 1994. The Committee is made up of 15 members: 3 representatives from each

state – these are environment ministers, deputy ministers of economy, representatives of academia and other fields that are appointed by the country Governments. Executive bodies of ICSD are: Secretariat and Information Science Center which are located in Turkmenistan and have their divisions in each of IFAS member states.

Since 1995 chairmanship of ICSD has been exercised by the Environmental Ministries of CA countries on the basis of a 2 year rotation: Turkmenistan was first to take chairmanship (1995-1996), then the Kyrgyz Republic (1997-1998), Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan (2000-2002), Tajikistan (2002-2004) and again it was chaired by Turkmenistan in 2004-2006. In 2007 on the decision of ICSD chairmanship of it is passed to the Kyrgyz Republic.

S.G.: What activity is carried out by the Interstate Committee for Sustainable Development?

I.M.: During the period of its existence ICSD has prepared and implemented a number of programs targeted at improving social and environmental situation in Aral region. In 2000 Regional Environmental Action Plan was initiated in Central Asia which covers five priority environmental problems of the region: air pollution, water pollution, land degradation, waste management, degradation of ecosystems.

In 2001 REAP was approved by the ICSD and by the IFAS as a single regional environmental program. This activity was followed up by development of a Concept of Support to REAP took into account the additional targets: strengthening political and institutional framework of regional cooperation, improving decision-making process in the region, expanding public participation, mobilization of resources and implementation of REAP. ►



“Dialogue on Environmental Policy of Asian-Pacific Sub Regions”, Ashgabat, November 2006

Today under coordination of ICSD and with the support of GEF the countries of the region are implementing "Support to Implementation of REAP" project within which pilot projects on achievement of above mentioned targets are being currently implemented; a number of projects have been developed in the priority areas and participation of civil society; decision making support system of Central Asian environmental and sustainable development was established. Under the ICSD Public Council of CA countries civil society representatives was established. Currently the Small Grants Program for Sustainable Community Development was prepared and launched.

Besides that within ICSD a report was developed on Global Environmental Review (GER-4) of Central Asia, development of Sub Regional Strategy on Sustainable development of Central Asia is underway. Also an assessment of implementation of REAP's priority problems for 5 years has been conducted and, as a result a report "Assessment Report on Priority Environmental Problems of Central Asia" was published. The result of a follow-up activity in this area was publication of "Assessment Report on Emerging Environmental Problems".

ICSD identified the need for development of a Convention as a legal basis for implementation of REAP. Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development of Central Asia was developed during the chairmanship of Turkmenistan (2004-2006) by the cross-cutting Working Group established by the country governments, a regional group including representatives of Foreign Affairs Ministries, environment ministries and agencies with informational support of ISC and consultative support of UNEP. The Convention includes the determining articles for solution of main environmental problems in the country. Today the Convention is signed by three countries(November 2006). Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are in the process of ratification of the Convention. This Convention was named by Central Asian countries as "Ashgabat Convention" and approved location of its Depository in Ashgabat.

S.G.: In 1995 Information Science Center was established to provide information and expert support to the ICSD and its operational activity. What has been done for these years?

I.M.: ISC of ICSD was established under the Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna of the Ministry of Nature Protection. Head office is located in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) and its sub divisions are functioning in

Chairmanship of ICSD :

- 1995-1996, Turkmenistan
- 1997-1998, Kyrgyz Republic
- 1998-1999, Uzbekistan
- 2000-2002, Kazakhstan
- 2002-2004, Tajikistan
- 2004-2006, Turkmenistan
- 2006-2008, Kyrgyz Republic

each of Central Asian states under the national agencies on sustainable development or environment. All national sub divisions have their own developed network of partners, experts, network of data holders and network on dissemination of information, etc.

An organizational and informational basis was established for joint activities to address sustainable social, economic and

environmental development of CA countries which is represented by the ICSD ISC. ISC has created and currently maintains a single database on categories such as "Economy -Environment -Society - Policy". It also collected information on legislative basis of CA countries in environmental area, information on international conventions and UN environmental programs. In June 2000 by the decision of ICSD Information Science Center was awarded a status of the UNEP/GRID Arendal Center and the regional center for Global Environmental Review (GER). Within this ISC has developed and published sub regional component for the GER-3, which the Central Asia joined for the first time. This document involves retrospective assessment of the state of environment for the last 30 years. Currently ISC has prepared a report on GER-4 which was based upon the published "Integrated Assessment of the State of Environment of Central Asia".

In 2002 as part of preparation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) ICSD has prepared and approved "Methodological Recommendations for Preparation of Central Asian Sustainable Development Strategy (CA Agenda 21) and report "Central Asia: Progress Review of the Agenda 21 Implementation". ►

In accordance with the ICSD decision ISC is developing Central Asian system of decision making in environment and sustainable development area.

Currently ISC with the support of UNEP is developing the Sub regional Strategy on Sustainable Development of CA (SSSD).

S.G.: Effectiveness of decisions in many ways depends on availability of quality and sufficient information. How the ICSD is dealing with operative and reliable information support for the processes in environment and sustainable development area?

I.M.: ICSD is now working over establishment of a Geographic Information (GIS) Center that should increase quality of and informed management solutions through obtaining operative and reliable information on environment. The acquired equipment and software have been approbated in the development process of a series of thematic maps with the use of space photography. Application of GIS technology is planned not only during development of Atlas but also in developing of materials for the Sub Regional Strategy



ICSD, Ashgabat, 2006

for Sustainable Development and Integrated Assessment of the State of Environment, analysis of sustainable development indicators of CA.

ICSD ISC as a regional center for development of Central Asian environmental decision making system takes part in creating of the best practices database on REAP priorities and emerging environmental problems, publications, projects and programs. ICSD has developed and supports automated multifunctional environmental web portal; actively cooperates with CARNet regional information network in information exchange and involvement of civil society in decision-making process. ICSD also publishes information magazine "Sustainable Development Issues of Central Asia" and supports the section "Aral and its problems" of the international scientific-practical magazine "Problems of Desert Development". ■

The interview was prepared by Svetlana Gamolya, NNF CARNet in Turkmenistan

the beginning on p. 1,2

Special attention was focused on the role of youth in this process and establishment of the youth ecological network in CA.

Within the frames of this event, Youth Forum "The Role of Youth in Sustainable Society Development" was held. Representatives of the youth ecological organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the Forum. At the Forum, the participants shared the experience in the field of nature protection, and promotion of ideas of sustainable development, discussed priorities of development of the youth movement in countries of CA.

Considering the necessity of strengthening cooperation between youth organizations in nature protection and forwarding the ideas of sustainable development, the Youth Forum decided to establish Youth Ecological Network of Central Asia (CA YEN), drafted action plan up to 2008, which was considered as the platform for cooperation of youth ecological

organizations of CA via implementation of joint programmes and projects. This initiative will allow youth organizations to join their efforts and forward the ideas not only on the local, but also national intergovernmental and subregional levels. The Report on activity of the youth of CA in the field of EP and SD prepared by the group of youth organizations under UNEP project and presented to the meeting of ICSD could be the mechanism for forwarding the interests of YEM of CA.

The first Forum of NGOs of CA established Public Board under ICSD, elected secretariat of PB, approved its plan of actions for 2006 – 2008.

NGO Forum created the basis for uniting NGOs of CA for solving transboundary problems, consolidating the efforts in support of national programmes of sustainable development and Regional Action Plan of environment protection. ■

*Saidrasul Sanginov, NGO "Logos"
Member of Public Board under the ICSD*

PUBLICATIONS

**Manual «Biogas Technologies in the Kyrgyz Republic»**

The agricultural system of Kyrgyzstan encounter difficulties related with a low soil fertility, rising prices of fuel and fertilizers, worsening environment and rural population poverty. The way of solving the problem could be application of biogas technologies in households. Processing of agricultural wastes: animal manure, herbages and drossy and food waste processed in biogas installations can provide households with gas

for different purposes and highly effective organic bio fertilizes that increase the soil productivity by 10-30%. Within the UNDP "Capacity Building and Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development" project and Small Grants Programme of Global Environmental Facility/ UNDP experts of the Public Foundation "Fluid" published the manual "Biogas technologies in Kyrgyzstan".

The manual provides assessment and distribution of best practices on exploitation and building of biogas units in our Kyrgyzstan. For those who would like to install biogas units in their households the manual presents different constructions and a list of component parts, selection criteria for farms and household needs, recommendations, norms of exploitations and facilities for their successful functioning.

The manual also includes information on the peculiarities of biogas technologies: anaerobic processing of organic wastes (biogas and biofertilizes), on methods, environmental and economic benefits of their application, costs and payback period of biogas installations on farming and Government levels.

The manual is designed for wide readers: household owners, staff of Scientific and Research Institutes, students and entrepreneurs, working in agricultural sector and farmers. Full version of the Manual is available on the www.caresd.net portal in section "Publications"

DISCUSSIONS

Water Users Association - the Way Toward Rational Use of Water

www.caresd.net/wateruser

Information Network CARNet with the support of the Environment and Energy Unit of the UNDP in Uzbekistan and the UNDP Regional Bratislava Center is opening a new discussion on theme: "Water Users Association – the Way Towards Rational Use of Water".

As the World Practice shows one of the ways of rational use of water resources is establishment of Water Users Association (WUA). Currently water relations improvement processes are underway in Uzbekistan for which Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan adopted resolutions (2003) N320 "On Improvement of Water Management" and N607 "On Accelerated Development of Farm Enterprises in 2005-2007" which serve a legal base for step by step implementation of market mechanisms in water management.

For more effective discussion the theme is subdivided into two sub themes:

- #1. "Legal Basis for Regulating Water Users Association Formation and Development"
- #2. "Capacity Building of WUA for effective Water Resources Management"

Moderator: Ulugbek Islamov, Advisor on Irrigation and Land Degradation of the Environment and Energy Unit of the UNDP in Uzbekistan. ulugbek.islamov@nature.uz

Discussion will last: From 22 December 2006 – 20 February 2007

We invite participants to the discussion and thank you in anticipation for your comments.

CONFERENCES, COMPETITIONS

THE FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The World Congress is to be held in South Africa from 2 to 6 July 2007 during which the World Association on Environmental Education is planned to be established to take place.

Congress participants will be politicians, researchers and educators. Organizers of the meeting hope that participants will manage to make appreciable contribution to achievement of goals of such UN Decade on Education for the Interests of Sustainable Development. The Millennium Development Goals, Education for All, etc.

Abstracts of speeches and publications in English should be sent on e-mail address which you can find at:

<http://www.weec2007.com/abstracts.php>

Registration form and additional information on Congress are available at: www.weec2007.com

Towards Belgrade:

Preparation to the 6th Conference of Environmental Ministers

Aliya Tonkobaeva,
CARNet National Co-ordinator in Kazakhstan

10-12 October 2007 the 6th European Conference of Environmental Ministers (further Belgrade 2007) will be held in Belgrade at which heads of environmental ministries of 56 countries are to assess implementation of the decisions adopted at the 5th Kiev Conference of Environmental Ministers in 2003. This includes the implementation progress of the Environmental Strategy of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (further – EECCA Eco Strategy). An active part in discussion of implementation of the Eco Strategy and preparation to Belgrade -2007 will be taken by non-governmental organizations (NGO) – more than 700 NGOs of EECCA region are involved in this activity.

2-3 November 2006 within preparation to Belgrade -2007 Almaty hosted the meeting of Central Asian (CA) NGOs. The meeting was organized by the EAP Working Group of the European Eco-Forum, EAP Special Task Force (STF) and Kazakh Public Organization «Greenwomen». At this meeting representative of the European Eco-Forum, Olga Ponizova has presented projects of the *Review of Public Participation in the Process of Taking up the Ecologically Important Decisions in EECCA and Assessment of Goals Implementation “Ecological Education” of the EECCA Eco Strategy from the perspective of NGO.*

In the project on Estimation of public participation in taking up ecologically important decisions all EECCA countries are evaluated on a number of criteria. The preliminary data of the study highlights the following positive moments:

- Consultative Boards of NGO are functioning in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan under the environment ministries/committees and other state bodies;
- The state of the environment reports are published in all CA countries and on a regular basis in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (annually, once in 3 and 2 years accordingly);
- In all these countries state of the environment

reports are disseminated either in print or electronic form (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) or only in print form (Turkmenistan, Tajikistan);

Currently all relevant ministries/committees of all CA countries except Turkmenistan (web site of the State Committee on Environment Protection and Forestry of Tajikistan is currently under reconstruction) have their regularly updated official web sites.

In the course of the discussion CA NGOs have noted and proposed to include into the document of Estimation the following *achievements* in the area of public participation in the process of ecologically important decision-making in our region:

- Legislative consolidation of public participation in environmental impact assessment procedures;
- Establishment of public councils having consultative status under the relevant ministries/committees;



Participants of Almaty Meeting of NGO

- Providing the governmental support to projects of environmental NGOs;
- Expanding capacities for discussion of environmental programs and draft legislation, etc.

Along with the achievement, participants of the meeting stressed a set of *problems* in the area of public participation among which were: ►

REGIONAL INITIATIVE

- Underdevelopment of institutional base of CA governments for fulfilling of undertaken commitments;
- Lack of transparency in the process of taking up ecologically important decisions;
- Limited access to information due to weak development and use of information-communication technologies, etc.

At the meeting Bulat Essekin, Executive Director of Central Asian Regional Environmental Center, presented information on the progress made in implementing of Central Asian Initiative on Sustainable Development (CAISD) (the initiative was also approved at Kiev Ministerial Conference). The report of CAREC highlighted achievements in implementing of CAISD on political and expert level and in the area of environmental education. To build a dialogue and promote public participation CAREC cooperates with international organizations such as European Committee, OSCE, OECD, Global Water Partnership as well as Governments of Germany and USA. Within this activity grant programs for Caspian coastal communities have been carried out in support of sustainable business and farming development in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Azerbaijan (total 150 projects were supported); NGO projects from CA countries within preparation to the 2nd Meeting of the Aarhus Conventions parties aimed at the CAISD (23 projects) and workshops within preparation to the same meeting were supported; a project on public participation in rehabilitation of local water supply system was implemented which resulted in development of innovative mechanisms of sustainable financing; an electronic library "Water Partnership" - www.carec.kz/water was established.

In his report Mr. Essekin stressed the problem of lack of cooperation in implementing of CAISD.

Programs and projects carried out with the support of donors, governments and private sector in CA not always coordinate their actions and often duplicate each other. On the suggestion of CA countries issue on CAI has been included in the agenda of Belgrade - 2007.

Environment for Europe: Ministerial Conference

- 1991 Dobris, Czechoslovakia
- 1993 Lucerne, Switzerland
- 1995 Sofia, Bulgaria
- 1998 Aarhus, Denmark
- 2003 Kiev, Ukraine
- 2007 Belgrade, Serbia

Almaty meeting of CA NGOs has become one of the events in the run-up to the Belgrade Conference, which is taking place both on official (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/welcome.html>), and unofficial levels among environmental NGOs. An organizer of the preparation process among NGOs is Pan-European Coalition of Environmental NGOs – European Eco Forum.

NGO is involved in the preparation process to Belgrade-2007 through informing, consulting (providing draft documents – discussion through e-mails or participation in activities of Eco Forum) and participation in meetings within EAP STF.

More detailed information on preparation process to the 6th Conference of Environmental Ministers

carried out by the European Eco Forum is available on the site of Eco-Forum www.eco-forum.org. On this site one can contact with coordinators of thematic groups and learn about the current and upcoming events and discussions. Here one can leave comments and suggest positions, documents, etc., and inform on their activity and plans as well as lobby their governments.

eecoforumnews@inbox.ru – subscription to electronic bulletin of the European Eco-Forum.

For more details on preparation of NGO to Belgrade Conference on the issues of environmental policy in EECCA countries visit: <http://www.ecoaccord.org>. To subscribe for newsletter and electronic discussion, please, send a message to: eecca_env_strategy-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.



CARNet Informational Network is an effective tool of information and analytical support and activation of civil society in Central Asia

Vladimir Grebnev, CARNet Regional Co-ordinator
Alexey Kobzev, CARNet National Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

In the end of 20-th century non-effective nature protection policy led to considerable environmental degradation in many countries of the world, and also in Central Asia region (CA). Awareness of the necessity of joint decision making regarding environmental issues in the region results in the problem of creation of effective mechanisms for improvement of decision-making and development of the dialogue between the governmental structures, wide public and the specialists. One of these mechanisms is «Digital Informational Network on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russia – CARNet»

CARNet network was initiated in 2004 with the support of the UNDP Regional Center for Europe and CIS and the UNDP Offices in Central Asian countries. The main area of CARNet activity is promotion of sustainable development concept, enhancing public awareness and participation in forming of sustainable development policy using new information-communication technologies (ICT) and existing experience and best practices. The CARNet activity seeks to increase capacity of civil society to participate in implementing of National and Regional Environmental Action Plans (REAP) and to achieve the Goal 3 “Enhancing public participation in decision-making process” of the Concept of REAP Implementation. It also focuses on implementing of sustainable development strategies in a broader context – the UN Millennium Development Goals with the main emphasis put on the Goal 7 “Ensuring environmental sustainability” and the Goal 8 “Global partnership for development”. A special attention is given to the Goal 3 “Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women” within achievement of sustainable development and use of ICT. The network’s activity areas are based on commitments of the member countries under the “Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in

Decision-making and Justice on Environmental Matters”.

CARNet Informational Network activity was officially supported at the Interstate Committee on Sustainable Development (ICSD) sessions: www.caresd.net was first presented in Dushanbe (Resolution N4 of 25.02.2004), then CARNet Informational Network was launched in Ashgabat (Resolution N6 of 06.11.2004). Besides that in the Act “On Public Council under the ICSD” approved by the ICSD (Resolution N5 of 06.11.2004) the CARNet Network was identified as an effective tool for disseminating of information.

During the period from 2004 to 2006 CARNet Network has been actively working to achieve the following goals:

- elaboration of an effective mechanism for information-analytical support to and involvement of civil society of Central Asia in sustainable development process;
- capacity building of NGOs and governmental bodies staff in ICT and collection, processing, generating and dissemination of information;
- improvement of general information and analytical support in sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Central Asia (CA).

The platform for presenting information and joining efforts of all CARNet members and, not only, is a bilingual (Russian and English) Internet portal “Central Asia and Russia Environment and Sustainable

Development Network” hosted at www.caresd.net. This web resource was created in 2003 by the UNDP Office in Kazakhstan with the support of “Capacity 21” UNDP Regional Fund and has taken in itself the best practices of Sustainable Development Network Program (SDNP), which was the first large-scale attempt taken in 90ss to use ICT for environmental purposes. ►

CARNet bases its strategy on the results of analytical researches conducted by such organisations as UN, The World Bank, UNDP, The Asian Development Bank, European Economic Commission, etc. Since 2004, for the purpose of better understanding of the situation and getting feedback from target groups, CARNet has conducted its own annual research based on unique methodology: “Informational Priorities and Needs of Civil Society and Decision Makers in the Area of Environment and Sustainable Development of Central Asia and Russia

CARNet bases its strategy on the results of analytical researches conducted by such organisations as UN, The World Bank, UNDP, The Asian Development Bank, European Economic Commission, etc. Since 2004, for the purpose of better understanding of the situation and getting feedback from target groups, CARNet has conducted its own annual research based on unique methodology: “Information demands and opportunities of the civil society and the bodies empowered with decision making in the sphere of nature protection and sustainable development in Central Asia and Russia”. The results of surveys in the form of analytical reports are published on www.caresd.net portal, and print and CD versions are disseminated among stakeholders. It is notable that the results of these surveys have been used by donor organizations of the region and leading NGOs in developing of their activity programs and projects.

The Informational Network CARNet is a pioneer to use and popularize ICT actively in promoting sustainable development issues. Particularly, it has initiated the following regional electronic discussions:

- “Problems of Irrational Land Use and Soil Degradation in Agriculture of Central Asia” - jointly with the Science-Research Hydrometeorology Institute under Uzgidromet in the run-up to the 7th Conference of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (17-28.10.05, Nairobi, Kenia) and under the Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management;

- “Integrated Management of Water Resources – a Basis for Prevention of Conflicts in Central Asia” – jointly with Science-Information Center of the Interstate Water Coordination Committee of Central Asia (ISC ICWC), in the run-up of International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Basins of Transboundary Rivers (30 May – 1 June, 2005, Dushanbe);

- “Gender Aspects of Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection” – jointly with the initiative “Gender and Water” ISC ICWC and UNIFEM in CIS, etc.

Outcomes of each discussion have been

summarized in the form of analytical reports and published in Internet on www.caresd.net, www.cawater-info.net portals and disseminated in printed form among different stakeholders.

The portal also provides virtual platform for discussion and commenting of draft legal-regulatory documents and publications on environment and sustainable development. Currently the draft law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Specially Protected Nature Territories” and publication “How the public can participate in solid waste management” are brought to discussion.

One of the know-how used by CARNet are the electronic information campaigns such as:

- “Ratification of Stockholm Convention in Kyrgyzstan”;
- “Ratification of Stockholm Convention in Tajikistan”;
- “Development of Environmental Code of Kyrgyz Republic”;
- “Development of Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, etc.

The Network also organizes training courses for NGOs and governmental body staff in ICT areas, participants of which obtain skills in working with information: information search in Internet, Internet- Journalism, processing information and analytical materials, interaction with mass media, etc. These courses were attended by total of 120 representatives from NGOs and governmental bodies of Central Asian countries.

One more practice area of CARNet is providing support to

development and promotion of local environmental initiatives in countries of the region. One of the examples of such work, which was jointly carried out by the OSCE and local NGO, is establishment of a youth movement “Green Patrols” in Tajikistan.

Today www.caresd.net portal has more than 100 analytical articles, materials and over 1000 news published on events in CA and the world in environment and sustainable development area. For this period CARNet published 11 issues of information bulletins devoted to urgent sustainable development issues in CA. ►



The Work Meeting of CARNet, 2006

The bulletin issue N10 “The Aarhus Convention in Central Asia”, in particular, was noted by the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, as one of the best information-analytical materials in CA countries. Press service of CARNet, for the current period, is the most referenced source on environmental and sustainable development issues in Central Asian region. For 2 years the attendance and reading rate of the portal increased by 20 times and has 6000 visits monthly.

Network also provides active support to NGOs and governmental bodies to develop and promote digital information resources. Today the portal hosts 20 sites of different initiatives and organizations such as:

- PO “Independent Environmental Expertise”;

- Institute of Water Problems and Hydroenergy, KR National Science Academy;

- KR State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEP&F KR);

- “Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Kazakhstan”;

- “International Ecological Forum in the Republic of Tajikistan”;

- The European Union project in Uzbekistan “Technical assistance to Central Asian countries with respect to their global climate change commitments”, etc.

Each owner of the site hosted by the CARNet portal is provided with its own address in Internet, technical support and independent management of site content. It is notable that jointly developed site of SAEP&F (www.ecokg.caresd.net) was rated as the most frequently visited environmental government body in CA. This was achieved due to the open access provided to both background information on the Agency and current information on the state of environment in the country.

CARNet is actively popularizing problems of sustainable development through the use of ICT possibilities. One of such examples can be organized in 2006 the exhibition of virtual caricatures and paintings by Prof. E. Shukurov timed to the World Environment Day, in which the master through the prism of humor and non-standard approach reflected problems that Central Asian countries have in environment and sustainable development area as well

as the issues on cooperation between donor, NGO and government organizations.

In 2005 CARNet has participated and won the tender for establishment of a sub regional unit of the “Capacity 21” Information and Learning Network in countries of Central Asia. This sub project was launched In April 2006 and is still functioning. Within the ILN activity a number of trainings have been conducted on localization of the Millennium Development Goals as well as on knowledge systemization and management. Besides, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator System in Uzbekistan, web resource on Youth Initiatives for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was created and hosted at the portal.

In December 2006 the “Best Practices Competition in Sustainable development of Central Asia” was launched, which aims to collect and popularize best practices of projects and initiatives implemented by public, non-governmental and international organizations, local communities and

private structure. By conducting this competition and creating the Best Practices database, the ILN/CARNet popularizes and supports implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Central Asia through providing wider access to innovative methods and concrete examples of solution to problems of sustainable development.

UNDP and other international organizations are implementing many projects and initiatives in sustainable development and promoting civil society ideas both at regional and national levels. At the same time results of their activities, effective impacts of projects, best practices and know-how remain unknown and inaccessible to broad population for further dissemination and replication. This tendency is especially traced in transfer of knowledge from one country to another or between projects, when information on realized activity is available but fragmented as it`s uncoordinated and filtrated at local level. In collaboration with all stakeholders CARNet Network promotes information on project results and activities of organizations using ICT and by collecting and disseminating most effective and successful ways of implementing sustainable development initiatives. ■

In collaboration with all stakeholders CARNet Network promotes information on project results and activities of organizations using ICT and by collecting and disseminating most effective and successful ways of implementing sustainable development initiatives.

Basin Committee:

Democratization of the water management policy

Interview with Jenat Alyahasov, the expert on establishment of Basin Committee and Igor Petrakov, legal consultant on Basin issues the team of UNDP project Development of the National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management.

The discussion is held by Aliya Tonkobaeva, CARNet National Co-ordinator in Kazakhstan

Aliya Tonkobaeva (AT): Janat Alyahasovich, Igor Alekseevich, your project supports establishment of Basin Committee (BC) in Kazakhstan as it was provided by the Water Code of 2003. Why is this being done only this year?

Igor Petrakov (IP): The order of the Committee for Water Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of ROK "On Basin Committee" was issued on April 21, 2004 as the follow up of the Water Code. This order approves *Sample Regulations on the Basin Committee* which, having the form of recommendation makes provision for establishing BC and organizing the work on development and signing Basin agreements. The order has the major weakness – there are no dates of implementation of tasks. The main reason why provisions of the Water Code and the abovementioned Order were not met was the absence of funds and the methodology of development of BC.

Technical assistance of UNDP under Development of the National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management and Saving in Kazakhstan allowed starting the work on BC.

AT: What have been done for establishing BC? In what Basins were the first Committees established?

Janat Alyahasov (JA): The role, procedures of BC operation in Kazakhstan were discussed in 2004 with participation of representatives of scientific community, water sector experts, and water users. In 2005 actual implementation of project objectives

coordinated with all stakeholders which provides assistance in preparing the *National Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan*, support in preparing BC and finalizing development of the *Strategy on Achieving the Millenium Development Goals concerning the access to the quality drinking water*.

In B 2004-05 the Project Group was working on preparing BC in Balhash-Alakolsky and Nura-Syrysusky Basins. The primary measures were focused on establishment of sustainable structure for BC functioning, as well as on informing all stakeholders, target groups in the first place, on the process of establishment. Balhash-Alakolsky basis was the pilot one where the first BC was established. Required methodical recommendations and documents for assisting in establishment of BC were prepared, training and working meetings were organized, established and information documents for Balhash-Alakolsky BC were prepared. In September 2005, the first meeting of Balhash-Alakolsky BC was held. The representatives of city and oblast maslihats and akimats, the leaders of territorial and state bodies, representatives of water

users and nongovernmental organizations participated in the meeting. The tender for establishing the second BC in Nura-Syrysusky Basin was won by NGO EcoCenter from Karaganda supported by our project.

AT: What is the objective of BC? What is the difference between BCs in Kazakhstan and those that are operating in other countries?

IP: BCs are not the bodies that manage water resources. This is

done by the Basin Water Boards (BWB). BCs are consulting and representative bodies which include various water users. They ensure fulfillment of requirements of water users and their participation in water management. BWB being the body that manages water resources should respond to these requirements. ►

Kazakhstan is the first country in Central Asia with the network of river BCs.

After eight BCs are established, water management will become more democratic.

The respond of BWB should be based on the actions that would provide adequate water supply, including protection of water resources and watershed

Kazakhstan is the first country in Central Asia with the network of river BCs. After eight BCs are established, water management will become more democratic. Establishment of BCs in Kazakhstan may be an intermediate stage. The BCS, in their current form, will be functioning over next 20 years, and then they may evolve for example into such structure that is operating in France where the main objective is the control of water tariffs. In France it is river BCs are the bodies that decide on the level of water tariffs if the water is supplied by private companies.

AT: What was the first response of potential stakeholders to establishment of BCs?

JA: At the meetings of stakeholders held in all basins of the Republic nobody objected to establishment of BC. Probably this is explained by well done preparation and information campaign under our project.

AT: Who are the participants of BC? What is the role of public sector, NGO in operation of BC?

JA: BC is composed of director of the respective BVU, the leaders of governmental and executive bodies of oblast level, the leaders of territorial state bodies, representatives of water users and public organizations.

The level of involvement of public into operation of BC may change from simple information on planned activities to consultations and then full scale participation of public in decision making. This opens an opportunity and the ways to inform those who make decisions on the interests and opinion of various sides. In spite of the fact that there are no any legal regulations on the extent of involvement of public, these processes may substantially impact decisions on water management.

Large scale participation in management is a rare case that is why most of official are not inclined to share their responsibilities assuming that they bear responsibility on behalf of wide layers of population.

AT: To-day six BCs are established in Kazakhstan. Is there a progress and are there problems in their work?

JA: Speaking about the progress in the first place we should note the interest of all involved parties to the operation of BC. Attention of the state bodies and public is focused on existing problems, and these problems are discussed constructively. In addition local authorities started financing some projects on water resources.

First of all, we should notice that there are no enough specialists in BVU that could organize



Photo: Anar Tleulesova, Director of Balkhash-Alakol Basin Authority (RBA), Chairman of Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council (BC)

day-to-day activity of BVU. Insufficient financing of BVU by the state, though the Water Code makes provision for this, is another problem. Another important issue is low level of cooperation in agricultural water use. That is why the interests of agricultural water users are so poorly represented. Most of problems are caused by the low status of WRC.

AT: You mentioned one very important document – the basin agreement. Would you please tell us about it? What is its main objective?

IP: Basin agreement is signed in compliance with Article 9 of Convention of Protection and use of transboundary water flows and international (*Helsinki, March 17, 1992*). It legally fixes voluntary joining of efforts of the parties ▶

to be continued on p. 15 ▶

Information on Ecoforum of NGOs of Uzbekistan

*Saidrasul Sanginov, NGO «Logos»
Chairman of Ecoforum of Uzbekistan's*

The first nongovernmental ecological organizations are operating in Uzbekistan for more than fifteen years. They were established in the end of 80-s of the last century in respond to aggravation of environment degradation in the Aral Sea zone and he basins of the largest rivers. Over these years they implemented a number of important projects and activities on informing the population on environment state and measures for its improvement. NGOS were very active in Karakalpakstan, Fergana and Tashkent oblasts.

However, in the end of 90-s the situation changed: in dozens of settlements of Uzbekistan a number of new NGOs and IGs were established. Now ecological NGOs are operating in Karakalpakstan, Khoresm, Kaskadarya, Surhandarya Samarkand, Bukhara, Fergana, Andijan, Tashkent and other cities. They educate the population on ecological issues, raise awareness and promote environment hygienic norms, carry out activities together with the state entities for promoting participation of public in decision making on environmental issues.

At the seminars and meetings of the leaders of ecological NGO the issue of the forum of ecological NGO was discussed several times. There were at least two attempts. Initiative groups were established, certain preparation of Ecoforum was conducted. But different reasons did not allow conducting the forum.

In December 2001 at the seminar "Basic principles of NGO activities" organized under ISAR/USAID program "Provinces" it was again decided to start preparation of Ecoforum. Available experience of foreign countries, in particular in Central Asian countries, was studied, and the model adequate to conditions of Uzbekistan was developed. The concept that Ecoforum will allow to address a number of issues that individual agency can not address. Namely, involvement of NGO coalition in preparation and implementation of targeted programmes on the most important issues of environment protection, enhancement of effectiveness of intersector cooperation, development of the network

NGO Ecoforum of Uzbekistan joined the efforts of environmental organizations operating in various regions of the Republic for them to be able to participate in the national and international programmes and projects, in decision making on ecological issues

of EcoNGOs in the country and its cooperation with NGO information network of foreign countries; wider access to ecological information and database.

The preparation stage was difficult. In 2002 and 2003 a number of organizational meetings were held. At these meetings Working Group (WG) for preparation of Ecoforum was elected, the programme of preparing of the Constituent Conference was developed; Regulations, the Strategy and seven programmes of Ecoforum were drafted. The public was widely informed on the process, NGO actively participated in discussion and decision making process of WG.

Ecoforums in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan showed that organizational issues should be prepared in advance. This will prevent inconsistency of positions and actions of forum participants. The most critical issues of conducting the Constituent Conference, establishment of management structures and elective bodies of Ecoforum were in detail discussed at WG training under support of Milieukontakt-Oost Europa. The training resulted in agreed programme and working documents presented to participants of the Ecoforum First Conference for discussion.

In September 21-22 2004, the conference of the leaders of 48 NGOs of Uzbekistan Ecoforum was established. The first conference of Ecoforum was held due to support of the "Atruf Muhit" - Joint Environment Programme of UNDP and the Government of Uzbekistan, State Committee of Nature Protection ►

of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Central Asian Regional Ecological Center, ISAR/USAID, CASP Counterpart International programme, Dutch Foundation Milieukontakt-Oost Europa. The conference of Ecoforum approved the strategy and target programmes on public ecological monitoring, public ecological expertise, ecological education, protection of public ecological interests, participation of public in forwarding the concept of sustainable development, participation of NGOs in water resources management, preservation of biodiversity and development of ecological journalism, as well as information programme of Ecoforum.

NGO Ecoforum of Uzbekistan joined the efforts of environmental organizations operating in various regions of the Republic for them to be able to participate in the national and international programmes and projects, in decision making on ecological issues. Establishment of Ecoforum of NGOs of Uzbekistan and development of the programmes formed the conditions for operation of environmental organizations of the country. Target programmes (TP) of Ecoforum defined priority tasks and directions of activity of NGOs. To fulfill the tasks and programme goals could create coalitions. At the same time Ecoforum target programmes represent its the vision and prospects of participation of NGOs in nature protection activity together with partners from the government agencies and business community.

In March 24-25 2006, the second conference of NGO Ecoforum of Uzbekistan took place in Tashkent. It was organized by Representation of CA REC in Uzbekistan, National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan and the Council of NGO Ecoforum of Uzbekistan. State Committee of Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP Office in Uzbekistan, NSCA - GEF/UNDP project, CARNet network and other organizations supported organization. Deputies of Oliy Majlis, the leaders of nature protection ministries and departments, the members of CA REC Council, representatives of international organizations, ecological NGOs mass media of Uzbekistan. The conference made changes in the Strategy and target programmes of Ecoforum, approved actions plans for their implementation.

Involvement in implementation of targeted programmes of Ecoforum became the form of participation in addressing socially important issues. In particular this relates to TP on participation of public in water resources management as allocation of transboundary water resources is of priority. Under water programme, a number of small projects were implemented in Fergana valley, Samarkand, Surhandarya and Tashkent oblasts, participation of ecological and water management organizations in international conferences "Participation of Public in Overcoming Water Shortage in Central Asia" (May 2003, Tashkent city under support of Milieukontakt Oost Europa and CA REC). There is national network of NGOs and experts dealing with water problems. ►

the beginning on p. 12,13

for cooperation and coordination of actions for restoration and protection of water sources with the aim of achieving the balance between economic development requirements and capability of regeneration of ecologically safe water resources, keeping in mind undoubted priority of satisfaction of basic requirements of human being.

Basin agreement may be international (two or more countries) and internal (between representatives of various structures within one country)

International basin agreement is signed between executive bodies of neighboring countries and stakeholders represented by authorized water management, use and protection bodies. When the countries are the members of Helsinki Convention or any other similar international agreements, the

executive body of such agreement may also participate.

Internal basin agreement is signed between territorial executive bodies with participation of stakeholders (natural and legal).

Basin agreements on restoration and protection of water objects is concluded between BVUs, local executive bodies located in the basin (oblast akimats) and other entities located in the basin with the aim of uniting capabilities and funds, coordinating their activity, as well as restoring and protecting water resources. The first and the only basin agreement in Kazakhstan was signed in Nura-Sarisuski BC between akimats of Karaganda oblast and Temirtau city, RGP "Karagandavodhoz", AO "Mittal Steel Temirtau", and Nura-Sarisuski BVU. ■

COUNTRIES` REVIEW

Under CASP/USAID programme Coalition of EcoNGOs executed joint project "River for everybody – everybody for river" that covered four oblasts of Uzbekistan. In 2005, Coalition of EcoNGOs, Goskomprirodi and SIC of IWMC implemented the project on training the leaders on rational water use methods. In 2006, the members of Coalition of EcoNGOs implement the project "Water is life". Its objective was to assist in supplying drinking water to rural areas of two oblasts of the country. Other targeted programmes were also implemented.

After the Cabinet of the Ministers of the country issued famous Regulation #56 (February 2004) on the procedure of using grant funds of international organizations, most of NGOs experienced difficulties. Many NGOs had to overcome bureaucratic obstacles in receiving the funds for ongoing programmes and projects financed from international foundations grants. Over the past period most of NGOs topped their operation due to various reasons. Under such conditions Ecoforum continues its work on consolidation of NGOs efforts and development of partner relations between the government and international organizations. Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between Ecoforum Council and State Committee of Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the area of nature protection. Memorandum on Support of information programme of Ecoforum, UNDP Office, UNDP Project and the Government of ROU "Support in Execution of the Action Plan for Implementation of Country Programme in the Area of Environment and Energy". Due to this web site and Ecoforum network is operating.

A number of Coalitions of EcoNGOs successfully implement the projects under target programmes: water, protection of biodiversity, development of ecojournalism, etc At the same time, targeted programmes on public ecological expertise, public monitoring, participation of public in forwarding the concept of sustainable

development, ecological law are not yet developed. Information programme of Ecoforum should be more active.

Ecoforum Council initiated a number of round tables for discussion of "Transboundary problems and ecological safety in CA". Nature protection agencies and international organizations held round tables on the problems of transboundary pollution of environment by enterprises of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (October 2004), transportation of radioactive waste (2005); pollution of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan environment by Tajik aluminum plant (August 2006). Two working meetings of Ecoforum members from all parts of Uzbekistan were held to discuss the preparation document of the Second meeting of the members of Arhus Convention in Almaty (April 2005), and draft laws of Uzbekistan "On non-government organizations", "On guarantees for NGOs activities". The deputies of Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of ROU participated in discussion (October 2005).

The representatives of Ecoforum participated in international forums: World Water Forum in Dushanbe, Conference of the Parties of Arhus Convention in Almaty, meeting of the ministers in Erevan, the seminar of NGO on water issues in Moscow, meeting of Secretariat of Arhus Convention and European Ecoforum on electronic tools and public participation in Geneva, Forum of non-government organizations "Civil Eight-2006", Summit G8, etc. Representatives of Ecoforum actively worked at the First Forum of CA NGOs in Almaty, the 5th subregional conference on EA and OUR in Bishkek.

Constructive interrelation with European Ecoforum and Ecoforum of Kazakhstan is established, contacts with International Social-Ecological Union and other foreign NGO unions and networks are maintained.

The contacts with offices of environment projects of international organizations are established and maintained. ►



Second Conference of Uzbekistan's NGO Ecoforum, Tashkent, 2006

«Green Patrols» - From Group to Movement!

«We believe that the youth of Tajikistan is capable to invest its talents and resources into development of the country» - is the motto of the youth nature protection movement «Green Patrols». What they are, how many they are, what they may be proud of – the answers are below in our paper.

Beginning.

The idea of establishing environment protection group of pupils was proposed in 90-s of the last century. OSCE mission in Tajikistan, the first international organization, that arranged summer camps for young people on different subjects (human rights, economics, environment, etc.). The participants of the camps happened to be active organizers of environment protection groups. This activity was started in order to involve pupils into environment protection. Already in two years (in 2001) enterprising group was established in Sogdiyiskaya oblast. The group had a legal status and the name “Youth Group on Environment Protection”. The same year, young people organized in Tajikistan the first camp for young ecologists. This event facilitated establishment of new groups over entire Sogdiyiskaya oblast. The groups organized competition of waste collection, waste recycling, cleaning of Kayrakum banks, lessons about ES and energy-saving as well as many other activities.

Umed Ulugov, NGO “Youth of the 21st century”
CARNet National Co-ordinator in Tajikistan

«Diffusion» of Green Patrols.

Idea and active work that supports it attracted attention to Green Patrols that are the mechanisms of involving young people into the process of decision making in the field of environmental problems. Even those organizations activity of which was focused on development of the potential of young people rather than on environmental problems started gradually adopt the successful methods of Green Patrols. Those organizations are . Youth EcoClub of Kurgan-Tyube, Djavononi Djanub of Kabodiensky rayon, Safina from Fayzabadsky rayon, Malham from Nosiry Husravsky rayon and others.

In 2006, OSCE Center in Dushanbe and NGO «Youth of the 21st century» held the consultations in which representatives of the enterprising groups on environment protection of 5 rayons of Tajikistan participated. The meeting resulted in trilateral agreement (enterprising groups, State Committee on Environment Protection and Forestry of ROT, OSCE Center in Dushanbe) which fixed the desire of these groups to enter the national movement of Green Patrols, and readiness of the government and international structures support them. Umed Ulugov, National Facilitator of CARNet network and ►

[the beginning on p.14-16](#)

Those are: GEF/UNDP/ROU project “National Self-Assessment of Country’s Capacity in Fulfilling Obligations under Global Environment Conventions”, EuropeAid project “Technical Assistance in Fulfilling Obligations under Global Climate Changes Convention”, GEF/WB Central Asian transboundary project “Preservation of Biodiversity in Western Tien-Shan”, UNDP/Government of Uzbekistan “Ecological Indicator for Monitoring of Environment of Uzbekistan”, the project of Swiss Agency on Development and Cooperation together with SIC of IWMC and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), etc.

The representatives of Ecoforum are actively participating in preparation of the final versions of national strategies, programmes, action plans on nature protection. Ecoforum cooperates with new public institutions in Uzbekistan. Joint work with the national association of NGOs of Uzbekistan established at the Forum of the National Association of Uzbekistan in 2005 is an example. In 2006, NGOs that are the members of Ecoforum and NA of NGOS ROU implemented a number of projects on nature protection and involving young people into nature protection activity. Currently due to joint efforts of NGOs, the members of Ecoforum, prepared the action plan for NA of NGOS ROU in the field of environment and education for 2007. ■

COUNTRIES` REVIEW

representative of was «Youth of the 21st century» youth organization, was elected as the leader and coordinator..

Currently...

Green Patrols movement is working in 25 rayons of the country.

State Committee on Environment Protection and Forestry of ROT, OSCE Center in Dushanbe, representative offices of OSCE in various rayons, youth groups and their unions support the movement. The movement unites 16000 of young people from 10 to 30 years. Green Patrols are rather active at schools attracting into movement new people each year.



Participants of "Green Patrols" movement

Movement Programmes.

On the whole the programmes of the Green Patrols represent comprehensive whole focused on one direction – development of the mechanisms of participation of young people in nature protection in line with the state policy in this area.

Educational Programmes are focused on transference of skills and knowledge, preparation of targeted programmes that facilitate achievement of sustainable development and Millennium Development Goals. Educational programmes include tested educational modules on ecology, leadership, lifestyle of teenagers, etc. National Summer Camps are organized to exchange experience, gained information and knowledge.

Practical Actions – every year the movement organizes a number of actions dedicated to various ecological dates, events. Members of the group actively participate in discussions in communities. For example, cleaning of territory schools, streets, villages; recycling of waste; planting of trees, including wind belts, nursery forests; Day of Earth; demonstration of

examples of energy saving.

Information – Bulletin "Kompas" is the main information source of the movement. It is published by the Youth Group on environment protection of Sogdiyiskaya oblast. The bulletin is disseminated among all groups of the movement. Moreover, every

month the groups issue TV program with assistance of local mass media. They also disseminate news via electronic mail.

We are many but we are open for everybody!

The participants of the youth nature protection movement Green Patrols in Tajikistan are as follows:

NGO "Youth of the 21st century". Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Chehova st., 1/1, app.15

Tel.: (99237) 2272772, (99299) 8811999

NGO «Nature Protection Youth Group». Tajikistan, Sogdiiskaya oblast, Hujand, Lenina st., Office 424

Tel.: (99295) 1560601

Youth Ecological Club, Tajikistan, Kurgan-Tyube

Tel.: (992918) 619502

NGO «Djavononi Djanub», Tajikistan, Kabodiensky rayon, Tel.: (99293) 5550282

Enterprising Group of Nosiry Husravsky rayon (branch of "Youth of the 21st century" NGO)

Tel.: (992918) 701389

Enterprising Group of Kulyab city, (branch of "Youth of the 21st century" NGO), Tel: (9923322) 30771

Enterprising Group of Garmsky rayon

Tel.: (992918) 641925 ■

Best Practices Competition in the area of sustainable development in Central Asian countries

«Digital Informational Network on Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Asia and Russia – CARNet» (www.caresd.net) within the framework of «Capacity 2015 Information and Learning Network in Central Asia» (ILN/CARNet «Capacity 2015») project announces call for entries for the:

Best Practices Competition in the area of sustainable development in Central Asian countries

Competition is held with the support provided by the UNDP Regional Center for Europe and CIS in partnership with the UNDP offices in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The aim of this competition is to collect and popularize best practices in implementing of projects and initiatives in the area of sustainable development by state, non-governmental or international organizations, local communities or civil groups and private institutions. By holding a competition and creating a database of Best Practices the ILN/CARNet contributes to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Central Asian countries through widening access to innovative methods and concrete examples of solutions to problems in sustainable development area.

For participation in the competition an application form - nomination of a project or an initiative for the status of the Best Practice - should be filled out which can be:

Downloaded from the Internet at the following address: www.iln.caresd.net, or www.caresd.net;

Received by e-mail upon sending request at info@caresd.net, or to CARNet Network National Coordinators on the addresses indicated below.

The Best Practices Competition is open to all practical cases that have been implemented in the territory of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The entries submitted to the competition may present any effective activity in the area of sustainable development, which proposes new approach to solution of pointed out problems and is reproducible in different environments and regions.

“Capacity 2015” Information and Learning Network is a UNDP support infrastructure to aid effective and efficient implementation of MDGs and other sustainable development activities and to ensure that information, knowledge, experience and expertise are exchanged.

Selection criteria:

- Innovation and creative approach
- Reproducibility
- Sustainability
- Cooperation and partnership
- Relevancy
- Efficiency and impact

Three applications from each country, which best meet the criteria of the competition, will be awarded the status of Best Practice and **cash prizes**.

The Public Council under the ICSD, with the financial support of UNEP, is putting forward a special nomination - “Best Practice in Cross-Cutting Interaction to Address Problems of Sustainable Development”. Under this nomination one Best Practice will be selected from each country.

In addition, **other special nominations** can be offered by the countries. Further information on nominations is available at: www.iln.caresd.net.

The Best Practices Competition is open for submissions **from 15 December 2006 until 15 February 2007**.

*In the period from 10 January till 10 February 2007., the Information Network ILN/CARNet will provide **consultation and technical support** for applicants to form the entries.*

Awarding of winners will take place from 10 to 25 March 2007 at the UNDP country offices.

To submit an entry and receive additional information and consultations (in the noted period), please, contact Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Coordinator of the Best Practice Competition:

Kyrgyzstan: UNDP Programme “Environment for Sustainable Development”, Bishkek, 96 B Kievskaya Str., right wing, 4th floor, tel: (996 312) 623761, e-mail: vladimir.grebnev@gmail.com, or info@caresd.net

Or National Coordinators of CARNet Network:

Kazakhstan: UNDP, Aliya Tonkobayeva, Almaty, 67 Tole bi Str., tel: (7-327) 2582643,

E-mail: aliya.tonkobayeva@undp.org

Tajikistan: PO “Youth 21”, Umed Ulugov, Dushanbe, 1/1 Chekhova Str., apt. 15, tel: (992 918) 613427,

E-mail: carnet_tj@mail.ru

Turkmenistan: CARNet Network, Svetlana Gamolya, Ashgabat, 15 Bitarap Turkmenistan, room 42, Institute of Deserts, tel: (993 12) 39 01 06,

E-mail: svgam@mail.ru

Uzbekistan: NNO «Hayot», Alexey Kobzev, Tashkent, 52 Bogi Baland Str., tel: (998-712) 546170,

E-mail: ecopol@tps.uz; alexey.kobzev@yandex.ru ■

GRANT PROGRAM OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Deadline for Applications – till 31 May 2007

Global Fund invites organizations to take part in grant program for organizational development of local communities funds. These grants pay for consulting services that are intended to:

- build the organisational capacities of community foundations through the development of core competencies and other essential areas;
- build the capacities of national/regional organisations to support the development of community foundations.

Fund staff will work with successful applicants to identify the most appropriate consultant(s).

Applicants for this programme may also apply for a grant/grants from “[Learning and Sharing](#)”.

Eligible organization:

- Community foundations (individually or as a group from the same country/region that want to address a common area for development)
- Support organizations (individually)

Maximum grant size: US\$15,000 for an individual community foundation or support organisation and up to US\$50,000 for a group of community foundations.

Grants can cover:

- analysis of organisational capacities;
- governance - board and policy development;
- grantmaking processes and administration;
- fund development;
- community leadership development;
- communication skills and practice;
- building community networks;

- information technology;
- optimising support organisations' services.

For detailed information see the site of the Program:

<http://www.wings-globalfund.org/grantmaking-orgdev.cfm> и <http://www.caresd.net>

FINNISH GRANT PROGRAM IN CA

Finnish Fund for Local Cooperation administered by the Embassy of Finland in Central Asia and Caucasus announces is support to local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-based organizations (CBOs), Government and other Institutions that seek the following goals in the field:

I) Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance within the priority areas of

- Gender Equality;
- Civic Education, Political Awareness and Media;
- Democratic Institutions

II) Promotion of Cultural Development

III) Support of Small Grants

Fund cannot support

- Activities of political parties, unless the activity supported is a joint activity of a representative number of political parties
- Projects in which the beneficiary is a single person, single family or private business, with the exception of some cultural activities
- Charitable contribution
- Finnish recipients

Additional information on the Programme and application form can be downloaded from www.caresd.net in section “Grants”

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- ▶ Unofficial translation
- ▶ Opinion of the editorial staff may not concur with position on the authors
- ▶ While using this information, the reference to CARNet Press-service is necessary

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