



UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE IN KYRGYZSTAN



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PRESS RELEASE

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UN Agencies discussed opportunities of poverty-environment mainstreaming into their programmes

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (March 5, 2014) – in Bishkek the workshop on mainstreaming poverty and environment issues into the UN Programmes and projects, implemented in Kyrgyzstan was held. During the workshop representatives of various UN Agencies reviewed the main principles and tools of the poverty-environment mainstreaming under planning and implementation of the programmes and projects.

The main objective of the workshop was to identify opportunities for integration of these issues as in long-term UN documents (the UN Framework UN Assistance Framework (UNDAF), UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)), so in annual work plans of projects.

During the discussion the representatives of UN agencies, i.e. UN Women, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, UNFPA, WHO, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Kyrgyz Republic gained knowledge on the mainstreaming of poverty and environment into the planning processes with a focus on climate change. The main presenter became Mr. Juan Palerm, International Consultant of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative in Kyrgyzstan.

"PEI - a global joint initiative of UNDP and UNEP, is recognized by independent evaluations, as well as participating donor agencies, as "...one of the best used examples of how UN agencies can work positively in partnership". It effectively draws on the strengths of each organization to support country and regional programmes", - said Mr. Ram Saravanamuttu, WFP Country Director, a.i. UN Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic in his opening remark.

Participants also had the opportunity to share experiences on current activities, which already address these issues.

Nurgul Baiburaeva, representative of UN Women, noted that their agency has launched a campaign to promote women's economic opportunities and further joint partnership with PEI could promote the joining of efforts and resources on the ground in order to improve the capacity of rural women.

Cholpon Alibakeeva , FAO Environmental expert shared information on the experience that can be used in the run-up to mobilize resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF - 6), which encourage such partnership, and this workshop is a great opportunity to coordinate this work.

Participants provided a line of recommendations on the poverty and environment mainstreaming under the UNDAF mid-term review, creation of e-platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience on poverty and the environment, review of these issues in the framework of Post - 2015 process. Moreover, participants highlighted the importance of involvement of private sector into the social, economic and environmental issues solving, as well as the use of innovative technologies and the revival of such enterprises as the silk production .

Stamatios Christopoulos, Regional Coordinator of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative mentioned: *"I am really pleased to see the productive and constructive work, and the fact that the Initiative has a platform for UN agencies, which has to be used more efficiently. For the first time I'm participating in such workshop, where people's knowledge about the environment and poverty from places are being considered. We need to strengthen a Central Asian component and Kyrgyzstan has to be represented at the regional level as there is already a good experience."*

Additional information:

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) of UNDP and UNEP is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

Mainstreaming of the poverty and environment issues is aimed at achievement of sustainable changes in these areas addressed by the governments and their partners through mainstreaming of pro-poor environmental sound management in key activity of the government, national development strategies, poverty reduction, and sector-based planning and investment.

Naryn oblast and Suusamyр Ail Okmoty (rural area) where people mainly depend on livestock were selected as the pilot areas.

More information on PEI is available on the official website: <http://www.unpei.org>