

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

UNDP AND UNEP JOINTLY WITH MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TRADE LAUNCHING A NEW POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROJECT

Dushanbe, September 16, 2010 – The UNDP and UNEP jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Trade are launching a new poverty and environment protection project in Republic of Tajikistan. This has been pronounced today in the Inception Project Workshop that has taken place in the UNDP Office involving representatives of the Ministry, international organizations, various NGOs and other business organizations.

Prime criteria upon which Tajikistan was selected to implement the Country Poverty and Environment Programme are poverty level, environmental conditions, interest and commitment both of the state and the UNDP Country Office regarding environmental issues that are directly connected with the poverty and population's well-being.

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative in Tajikistan aims to enhance opportunities for the environment to contribute to human well-being, pro-poor economic growth and reach the Millennium Development Goals. This will result in enhanced government and other stakeholders' capacity for integrating environmental considerations into national and sub national planning and budgeting processes.

As it was noted by UNDP experts, the 12 month preparatory phase resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the existing national and sub national planning and budgeting system and key interconnected poverty and environment considerations, and in the development of this project document.

"Under this project UNDP and UNEP experts jointly with actively involved Ministry's staff members will engage in integrating environment protection considerations in national and rayon planning process, - Zulfira Pulatova, UNDP Project Manager, noted. – We are also planning to implement pilot projects that demonstrate linkages between poverty and resource management".

Poverty and Environment Initiative is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) working in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and Central Asia. The Poverty and Environment Programme aims to improve the livelihood of poor people dependent on natural resources by supporting governments to integrate pro-poor environmental considerations into national and sub-national planning and budgeting processes. In Europe and the CIS region, the Poverty and Environment Programmes are implemented in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and provide targeted technical assistance to Armenia.

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About the UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a UN global development network committed to positive changes in people's lives by providing member countries with the access to knowledge, experience and resource sources. We operate in 166 countries supporting them in searching solutions of global and national development problems. In the process of developing their capacity the countries use experience and knowledge of the UNDP and partner community's staff.