Tajikistan is included into the group of countries with medium human development with its 2013 Human Development Index (HDI = 0.607), ranking 133rd out of 187 countries. The 2013 female HDI value for Tajikistan is 0.591 in contrast with 0.621 for males, resulting in a Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.952. Tajikistan has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.383, ranking it 75 out of 149 countries in the 2013 index.

Economy and human development in Tajikistan is strongly linked with its natural capital. Key country economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, water management, industry, including mining, are highly dependent on environment, and at the same time have a large impact on the environment.

“Women are most affected by the climate change and environmental issues in the region because traditionally they are responsible for everyday household activities. As many men migrated to the other countries women are becoming sensitive to the environmental issues, such as water and energy and land management. There are increased risks of infection diseases.”

(Mansurova Jannatoy, Head of the Department of Women Affairs, Jabbor Rasulov district)
“Because of the increasing men labor migration women are becoming the head of households and have to take care of living, households, children. This is why they become the most vulnerable part of the population. For instance, because there is no plumbing system in the district villages, women have to bring water from the ponds. In addition to the household work women have to take care of household’s income to pay for food, education and health services.” (Representatives of the Ghonchi district)

“Unfavorable conditions of the climate change are felt particularly in those parts of the region where population is already sensitive because of gender roles, age and physical abilities. Women and children, who are larger part of the poor population, are most sensitive to climate risks. In families, they are responsible for bringing water, food and warming materials, and particularly depend from natural resources, which currently depend on the climate, building barriers and preventing them to adapt to these conditions.” (‘Gender Assessment of Humanitarian Situations’, UN Women, Sociological Research Center <Zerkalo>, Dushanbe 2014)

In line with the global PEI priorities, in Tajikistan, the PEI is looking at how gender equality is addressed in the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) sector planning and policy making. For this purpose the Government supported for elaboration of the baseline study for the gender mainstreaming into ENR sector by collecting and providing the information and data on:

- general policy and regulatory framework for gender mainstreaming,
- institutional framework for gender mainstreaming,
- existing gender-based information and data,
- basic capacity development framework for gender mainstreaming,
- political power (representation of women in decision-making positions in the public sector, non-governmental sector and relevant ministries),
- economic power (access to resources, extension services, technology, etc.),
- gender mainstreaming in the key P-E related sectors (water management, land management, energy, agriculture, etc.): sectoral policy, planning, legal, and institutional framework for gender mainstreaming,
- gender mainstreaming in PEI (and possibly other relevant UNDP programmes and projects).