

# KYRGYZSTAN

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI KYRGYZSTAN

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Timescale: Phase I (2011–2013); Phase II (2014–2017).

Partners: 1st Vice-Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economics and Anti-Monopoly Policy, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, State Agency for Construction and Regional Development, the Academy of Management and local authorities in two pilot areas (Naryn Province and the Suusamyrdarya district).

Focus: Integration of poverty and environment (P-E) objectives into national, regional and local area planning processes and budgets and improved awareness and capacity-building for P-E environment mainstreaming among key stakeholders. The Project will incorporate gender dimensions in P-E work by mainstreaming gender issues in relevant activities and promoting women's initiatives and leadership in P-E and sustainable development agenda.

## MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

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A third of the population in Kyrgyzstan lives below the national poverty line. Agriculture accounts for 40% of total employment (70% of the poor) and more than one-third of GDP. More than 40% of agricultural land is degraded and over 85% of land is exposed to erosion. Rural women are more disadvantaged because of their limited access to natural and economic resources, decision-making in private and public life, labour market, information and technologies. Thus sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and measures to raise farm productivity and farm incomes are key priorities of the Government.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

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Support the effective integration of the P-E nexus into national and sub-national strategic planning processes and in line with the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, also addressing the climate change sub-nexus, MDG (post-2015) achievements and aspects of Human Development.

Exchange knowledge and experience at a regional level and develop an integrated approach to strengthening gender mainstreaming in the P-E nexus with participation of national and international experts from P-E pilot countries.

Support the Ministry of Economy to facilitate integrated cross-sectoral development planning and implementation at national and sub-national levels. The agriculture sector will be one of the key target sectors to address pasture degradation issues in rural areas.

Implement a number of pilot projects promoting green business approaches among entrepreneurs within the framework of Finnish-funded "Aid for Trade Phase III" project, which will then feed into recommendations on development of environmental standards into national level trade policies

Disseminate findings from PEI Phase I and Phase II

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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PEI's work with the Ministry of Economy facilitated by direct leadership and involvement of the Minister, as a PEI champion, has significantly contributed to the initiation, development and adoption of the two

key strategic documents of country's development –National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2013-2017 and Government's Programme for Transition to Sustainable Development 2013-2017 (PTSD).

Development of the first National Report on the State of Environment for Kyrgyzstan jointly supported with UNDP's Environment Protection for Sustainable Development Programme.

Piloting the integration of Green Growth Indicators in the upcoming National Development Plan of Kyrgyzstan resulted from a PEI partnership with OECD. This has also contributed to establishing the first multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism under the championship of the Deputy Minister of Economy and the Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Finance and Budgeting.

As a result of PEI efforts to boost collaboration among government agencies, civil society, the business sector, and education and research institutions, the PEI Programme Board, chaired by the Ministry of Economy, was widened to include a representative of the business sector.

UNDAF 2012–2016 features for the first time poverty reduction and environment as one joint thematic pillar. Improved cross-thematic coordination at UNDP Country Office including a poverty-environment working group.

## LESSONS LEARNED

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Full use of the inception period allows for the refining of the programme approach and clear formulation of realistic, implementable programme objectives.

Pilot projects should be linked to relevant strategies at subnational and national levels and have the potential for replication.

Cross-thematic cooperation within the UNDP Country office has proved beneficial. PEI has spearheaded a new coordination and cooperation approach.

Vertical and horizontal capacity gaps will need to be bridged to ease challenges associated with integrated planning and budgeting and delivery with synergy across key sectors within PEI Phase II.

Ministry of Economy served as a strong platform for cross ministerial collaboration and their on-the job training in the process of the development of the PTSD – this will be strengthened during Phase II.

## WAY FORWARD

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Contribute to Kyrgyzstan's efforts to implement Rio+20 recommendations regarding sustainable development, in particular in key sectors such as agriculture, energy and water resources, so that poverty-environment issues become an integral part of these strategies and plans.