




**STOCKHOLM+**

A HEALTHY PLANET FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ALL  
– OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY

 **NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS**



# POSITION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

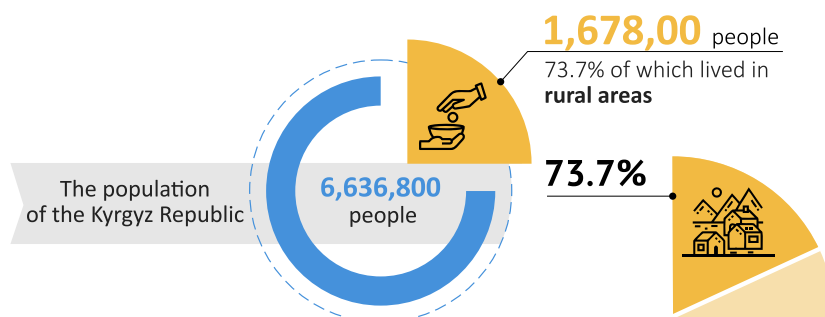
ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING “STOCKHOLM+50:  
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## POSITION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

### ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING «STOCKHOLM+50: A HEALTHY PLANET FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ALL – OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY»

The Kyrgyz Republic is located almost in the center of the Eurasian continent, far from the oceans, with no access to major international transport and communications infrastructure.

The population of the Kyrgyz Republic is estimated at 6,636,800 people<sup>1</sup>, of which, according to various estimates, between 300,000 and 1,000,000 citizens exist with their families in a labour emigration situation. In 2020 there were 1,678,000<sup>2</sup> people living below the poverty line, 73.7% of which lived in rural areas.



**Agriculture is one of the leading sectors of the country's economy**, both in terms of the amount of value added created and the number of people employed. The dependence of the population on natural resources remains high. Thus, more than half of the population of the country depends on grassland ecosystems (pastures), while about 1.2 million people depend on forest ecosystems. Economic growth in the Kyrgyz Republic generally has occurred through the exploitation of natural resources and commodities, and thus suffers from a lack of value addition. Natural capital is being lost and degraded.

At the same time, the Kyrgyz Republic is committed to implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The quality and standard of living, the rights and duties of all people are at the center of government policy. The country's socio-economic development in recent years has been driven by complex political processes, and the challenges of climate change, financial crisis, and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. To restore economic and social stability after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted a package of priority measures that included elements of green recovery. In addition to measures of social support to the population and assistance to business entities, the action plans of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic covered important areas related to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change; the construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and irrigation systems; the creation of favourable conditions to attract investments and to

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stat.kg/ru/opendata/category/39/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.stat.kg/ru/news/v-2020-godu-kazhdyy-chetvertiy-zhitel-kyrgyzstana-prozhival-v-usloviyah-bednosti/>

promote projects for renewable energy sources (RES); the promotion of organic and ecological agricultural production and placing a focus on the development of green economy. Important strategic documents have been adopted such as the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, the Climate Investment Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic (NDC), the Programme of Green Economy Development in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2023, etc.

The Stockholm+50 process is an opportunity for our country to assess progress and stimulate activities aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The process of developing the state position was accompanied by broad national consultations, including with the participation of deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh, the Cabinet of Ministers, state bodies, academic and business communities, representatives of the financial sector, women, youth and civil society representatives, as well as representatives of all seven regions of the country.

The national consultations were held in three areas:

LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE 1	LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE 2	LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE 3
Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all	Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)	Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

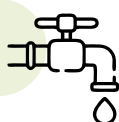
As a result of the consultations, a number of issues were identified to some extent by all the groups involved. These issues were as follows:



**Education, Awareness.** The provision of highly professional personnel is the first priority for the management system, as well as for business and civil society. Without widespread public awareness of the goals, objectives and principles of sustainable development it is impossible to achieve sustainable and quality outcomes.



**Monitoring.** The country is implementing a wide range of initiatives and projects on the various Sustainable Development Goals. However, to assess progress and plan further steps, systematic and quality monitoring is needed, involving stakeholders and presenting the results to the general public and decision makers.



**Infrastructure.** To achieve sustainable results, it is necessary to rely on physical infrastructure that will provide reliable access to water for the population and reduce water losses, as well as reliable energy sources. Transport interchanges will ensure quality and uniform socio-economic development of regions, sewerage networks will ensure the prevention of environmental pollution, etc. For the Kyrgyz Republic, as a mountainous country, infrastructure is crucial to achieve sustainable development.



**Inclusion.** The importance of involvement and participation of all stakeholder groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, representatives of regions and local communities in decision making on sustainable green growth and development was noted. This will make it possible to develop solutions that take into account the needs and requirements of vulnerable groups and implement the principle of «leave no one behind» in practice.

## LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE 1

### REFLECTING ON THE URGENT NEED FOR ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY PLANET AND PROSPERITY OF ALL

The Kyrgyz Republic, reaffirming its commitment to the goals of the global environmental agenda, is a party to 14 international treaties in the field of environmental protection. Since its independence, our country has tried to attract the attention of the international community to the problems of mountainous countries. At the Rio+20 Conference, the Kyrgyz Republic presented the «Mountain Initiative», which focuses on the recognition and support of developing mountainous countries. The triple planetary crisis, caused by loss of climate change, loss of natural resources, destruction of ecosystems and degradation of biodiversity and pollution disproportionately affects mountainous countries, and we face worsening consequences daily.

Therefore, the Kyrgyz Republic cannot stand aside and acts as an initiator of many regional and international processes to stop the destruction of the environment.

In 2021, the Kyrgyz Republic initiated the Resolution of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly «Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation — a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use».

On the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, the General Assembly declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development. The country declared 2022 as the Year of Mountain Ecosystems Protection and Climate Sustainability.



**2022** The Year of Mountain Ecosystems Protection and Climate Sustainability

The country is now facing the serious task of creating a modern management system that can effectively meet the challenges of our time.

The President signed the Decree «On Measures to Ensure Environmental Security and Climate Sustainability», which set the task of raising the status of the environmental authority, which was done. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision has been functioning since November last year, before that there was the State Committee on Ecology and Climate.

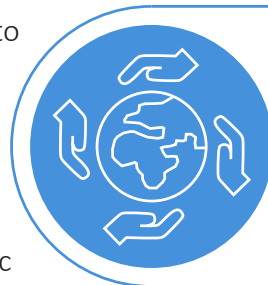
The NDC was developed and adopted by the Green Economy and Climate Coordinating Council,

under which the country committed itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 16.63% by 2030, and with international assistance by 43.62%.

The Stockholm+50 process is an important moment for rethinking achievements and identifying a path to breakthrough. The Kyrgyz Republic has identified the following «hotspots» for action to maintain a healthy planet and prosperity of all:

### **Climate Change - Focus on Cohesion!**

In the Kyrgyz Republic, rising temperatures are leading to more frequent and intense extreme events such as drought, unpredictable seasonal weather, and an increasing number of natural disasters such as landslides, mudslides and avalanches. The consequences result in loss of lives and livelihoods and negatively impact key sectors of the country's economy, including agriculture and energy, resulting in economic losses and poverty. Climate change is a major challenge to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



*In this context, we have the following objectives:*

- Currently, the Kyrgyz Republic has begun work on the development of the National Adaptation Planning (NAP, under the Green Climate Fund project, with implementation by UNDP). However, the NAP does not cover all sectors identified in the NDC, thus it is necessary to expand coverage of sectors and pilot areas;
- Develop a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to assess progress towards the NDC;
- Develop available methods for assessing climate vulnerability for cities and settlements of the Kyrgyz Republic, including a study of the impact of changes on children's health and reproductive functions of women and men;
- Popularize climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emission reduction practices for the population of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Adopt the «Strategic Priorities for Climate Change Learning» at the Green Economy and Climate Coordinating Council;
- Introduce agricultural insurance systems in areas of risky farming and transhumance;
- Strengthen work on the implementation of national environmental, organic standards and norms in the field of agricultural production, food safety and security;
- Develop laws to restrict hazardous industries, including the production and use of plastic and foam materials;
- Encourage the creation of enterprises for recycling and utilization of waste, and the introduction of low-waste and non-waste technologies;
- Ensure access to climate resources for local communities, including women and youth.



**Conservation and rational use of water resources are the most important national goal of the 21st century.**

Water, as a natural resource and a source of internal sustainability and well-being of the country, can be multiplied only in the context of protection of natural ecosystems and glaciers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Kyrgyz Republic is the only country in Central Asia whose water resources are completely formed on its own territory; this is its hydrological peculiarity and advantage. However, a significant part of the withdrawn water is lost in use. During the period from 2006 to 2010, the average water loss during transportation was 23% of the water intake. According to the forecasts of scientists and according to different scenarios, our country can lose from 65-75% to 80-90% of glaciers by the end of the century, which will entail huge negative consequences for all sectors of society and will increase tensions between Central Asian countries.



*In this context, we have the following objectives:*

- Give a special protection status to glaciers, groundwater deposits and adjacent ecosystems (amend the Water Code, the Law on Protected Areas);
- Strengthen the monitoring and scientific work to study glaciers and groundwater, which provide the main drinking water supply of cities;
- Improve the efficiency of water resources management (basin principle of management, create daily regulation basins);
- Introduce technologies aimed at improving water accounting in the irrigation network, as well as new methods of water management and reducing the risk of corruption in this area, increase the transparency of irrigation water use;
- Introduce technologies to protect underground sources of drinking water from pollution;
- Ensure control of wastewater treatment plants in populated areas of the country, as well as in tourist sites and recreation areas, including the water area of Lake Issyk-Kul.

**Preservation of natural mountain ecosystems is our way to sustainability.**

The Kyrgyz Republic is a country where natural ecosystems are still preserved. They contribute to the maintenance and formation of climate in Central Asia, provide ecosystem services and are the richest source of genetic resources.



*In this context, we have the following objectives:*

- Pay special attention to the preservation of natural ecosystems and forests, take measures to maintain their proper ecological condition;
- Amend the Forest Code to recognize «forests» as ecosystems;
- Give the status of protected areas to natural forests of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Provide afforestation and agroforestry on marginal lands;

- Strengthen work to ensure the reproduction and accounting of living organisms and plants, regulate hunting, increase the area of protected areas;
- Introduce rotational use of pastures (conservation of degraded pastures) to reduce degradation and preserve ecosystems);
- Increase the participation of local communities, including women and youth, in pasture management and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Create seed banks to preserve genetic information;
- Promote adaptation and ecosystem approaches, including the application of traditional knowledge and practices to achieve nature-positive, carbon-neutral and pollution-free development;
- Encourage scientific research, including scientific tourism;
- Work with government and private sector to stimulate investment in environmental protection by creating financial solutions aimed at achieving national biodiversity conservation and development goals.

**People are at the center of change!** The center and the ultimate goal of the country's development becomes solely the human or social development. Therefore, both today and in the long term, the development of human capital will remain the absolute national priority of the Kyrgyz Republic.



*In this context, we have the following objectives:*

- Approve the Environmental Security Concept of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Develop and approve plans for each region and cities of national importance to ensure environmental safety and climate sustainability;
- Integrate education for sustainable development into primary, secondary, and higher education systems;
- Disseminate knowledge among the public about the health risks associated with the use of household chemicals and pesticides, with particular attention to their impact on the health of rural children and women;
- Create safe and eco-comfortable cities: increase greening standards and ensure a sustainable dynamic increase in the area of green spaces in human settlements, including the creation and expansion of green belts around them, and introduce a "dashboard" of large cities into the statistical reporting system;
- Adopt the law «On the Protection of Green Spaces in Settlements of the Kyrgyz Republic»;
- Ensure the construction of landfills for the disposal of toxic waste;
- Strengthen state control over the quality and safety of consumer goods;
- Develop an online platform to post the facts of environmental violations detected by the public across the country for a prompt response of the authorized bodies;
- Strengthen the leadership and capacity of local communities, including women and youth, to participate in solving the problems of climate change, reducing the risks of natural disasters, strengthening peace and security, resilience to climate change.

## ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC (COVID-19)

The COVID-19 pandemic has put enormous pressure on the social and economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the consequences of these shocks are still being experienced by the population. Understanding the seriousness of the socio-economic crisis, the deepest in the last 25 years (causing an 8.6% decline in GDP), led to the provision of guarantees by the state to ensure the functioning of vital sectors—basic infrastructure, such as energy, telecommunications and food security facilities.

In accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Kyrgyz Republic prepared an Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021. To restore economic and social stability after the COVID-19 pandemic the country adopted a package of priority measures, which included green recovery measures. The measures were not limited to social support of the population and assistance to business entities, but also included the most important areas related to mitigation and adaptation to climate change: construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and irrigation systems; creation of favourable conditions for attracting investments to promote renewable energy projects; promotion of organic and ecological agricultural production; and a focus on the development of green economy in general. Stimulating and regulating economic and fiscal incentives for the transition to a green economy and climate-resilient development are important elements of the country's green recovery.

To maintain and restore economic activity in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Stabilization Fund was created in order to mobilize financial resources, accumulate reserves for future generations and finance urgent measures, as well as to reduce exposure of the economy exposure of the economy to the impacts of unfavorable external factors.

In 2022, the new Tax Code was enacted, significantly reducing the tax burden on certain strategically important sectors of the economy, as well as introducing norms that encourage reduction of the shadow economy. In addition, norms to support the green economy and green technology are also included.

The President signed a number of decrees, including «On Measures to Ensure Environmental Safety and Climate Sustainability», one of the objectives of which was the introduction of low-

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