

MINISTRY OF NATURE PROTECTION OF TURKMENISTAN

**TURKMENISTAN: CAPACITY BUILDING
STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT THE UN GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS**

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This edition is the final paper prepared within the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan project "Turkmenistan: National Capacity Building Needs Self Assessment" (NCSA). It summarizes the results of the thematic reviews and cross assessments of national capacity building needs of Turkmenistan for the purposes of implementation of three global environmental conventions of Rio de Janeiro, and namely, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Given the results of the above mentioned assessments and the mutually intensive effects of these conventions, the project developers concentrated their attention at searching the ways for creation of synergism, i.e. integration of efforts at the national level in order to facilitate implementation of the country's commitments arising from the three global environmental conventions and improve the prospects for the sustainable development. Such approach to the document development led to identification of factors restraining the growth of national capacity of the country for implementation of these conventions and the factors promoting this capacity building, as well as allowed to find the ways for elimination of the existing constraints. Thus, there has been developed an action plan - *National Capacity Building Strategy for Implementation of Turkmenistan's Commitments Arising from the UN Global Environmental Conventions*.

The Strategy includes general requirements and strategic focuses for the national capacity building, while every strategic focus suggests the certain measures with indication of main executors including ministries, departments and organizations, dates of completion and sources of financing, as well as mechanisms of the Strategy implementation monitoring.

This edition will probably be a useful guide to decision-makers in the area of biodiversity conservation, global climate change, desertification combating, as well as to experts in the field of nature conservation and nature use, specialists of research institutions, teachers of higher education and secondary schools, and to interested public.

Figures - 2; Tables - 1; References - 22 titles; Appendices - 2 (12 pages.)

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INTRODUCTION

Uniqueness of geographical position of Turkmenistan, its natural and climatic conditions, rich diversity of nature and necessity of conservation of this diversity for the current and future generations served to be the important prerequisite for ratification of three global environmental conventions of Rio de Janeiro, and namely, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The availability of rich natural and labor resources becomes the basis for creation of principally new, highly efficient economy with the developed market institutes guaranteeing political and economic stability of the country, high standard of living. The necessity of resolving the problems of environment conservation and rational, sustainable use of natural resources has been raised to the rank of state policy and it is one of the most important provisions of the national environmental conception [1–5, 19].

The project of Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan “Turkmenistan: National Capacity Building Needs Self-Assessment” was aimed at developing the action plan for efficient implementation of Turkmenistan’s commitments arising from the Rio de Janeiro conventions.

The main goals of the project comprised:

- active participation of Turkmenistan in the global environmental management;
- keeping up of efficient implementation of Turkmenistan’s commitments arising from UN conventions concerning Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification Combating;
- development of capacity building strategy to implement these three conventions.

To achieve these goals the following steps were taken:

- assessment of the national capacity building needs to implement three multilateral environmental conventions of Rio de Janeiro;
- identification of factors restraining the growth of capacity to implement the conventions and those factors that ensure this growth;
- development of the strategic action plan to strengthen the existing mechanisms of implementation of global environmental conventions at systemic, institutional and individual levels;
- intensification of the dialogue, information exchange and cooperation between the parties concerned in order to promote public awareness in the key problems of global environmental management and in urgency of these problems solution for the future development of Turkmenistan.

The NCSA project was implemented on a stepwise basis:

1. There has been performed the assessment of needs for the national capacity building for each of three thematic areas such as biological diversity, climate change and desertification/soil degradation including the complex inventory, analysis of the country’s capacity for implementation of commitments arising from the conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification Combating, as well as the determination of priority problems of the country, the factors restraining the capacity building and the development of recommendations for building up the capacity in the area of protection of global environment in consideration of these three international conventions [22].

There has been made the analysis of environmental strategies, legislation, socioeconomic and scientific potential of the country, mechanisms of management, coordination and control related to implementation of global conventions, the state of environmental expertise, personnel training and ecological education, as well as participation of the civil society in solution of environmental

problems, in implementation at the national level of international environmental conventions such as CBD, FCCC and CCD.

2. The cross analysis has been made in respect of information received in the process of drawing up the thematic reviews on biological diversity, climate change and desertification / soil degradation. This analysis resulted in identification and explaining of successes and gaps / shortages in implementation of programs; identification and stating of foundations common for all three abovementioned thematic areas; stating of cross-cut problems; assessment of implementation of global environmental conventions; determining of general needs of the country for the national capacity building; developing of complex practical recommendations on enhancement of this capacity and concentration of human, material and financial resources for fulfillment of priority environmental measures.

3. The development of National Capacity Building Strategy to Implement Commitments of Turkmenistan Arising from the UN Global Environmental Conventions has been done based on integral, complex approach to assessment of the national capacity building needs. For this purpose the "cross assessment" was carried out at the systemic, institutional and individual levels to appraise the national capacity building needs common for all thematic areas – biological diversity, climate change and desertification / soil degradation. In the course of this strategy development the special attention was paid to seeking for possible areas of the Rio-de-Janeiro conventions synergism, i.e. integration of efforts to facilitate their implementation and to improve the prospects of measures taken by the country to secure the sustainable development. The Strategy defines responsible executors – ministries, departments and organizations, the terms of implementation and the sources of financing, formulates the expected results of these measures fulfillment. For implementation of the Strategy as a whole, the mechanisms of its monitoring were specified. For achieving the goals of the Strategy, fulfilling the commitments of the country arising from the Rio-de-Janeiro conventions the coordinated activity of all parties concerned, including ministries, departments and all groups of the society is stipulated.

Implementation of the project of Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan "Turkmenistan: National Capacity Building Needs Self-Assessment" was financed by GEF and UNDP in Turkmenistan. The national professionals from the line ministries and agencies, as well as the independent international experts, representatives of commercial and non-government organizations took part in development of the project. The work was done in conditions of complete openness, in consideration of previous experience of environmental conventions implementation. The results of the project implementation were widely and consistently discussed in all the velayats at specially organized workshops, meetings, round tables with participation of representatives of ministries, departments, organizations and the leading experts of the project.

1. ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TURKMENISTAN'S COMMITMENTS ARISING FROM THE RIO DE JANEIRO CONVENTIONS

1.1. Socioeconomic potential of Turkmenistan and the goals of global environmental conventions

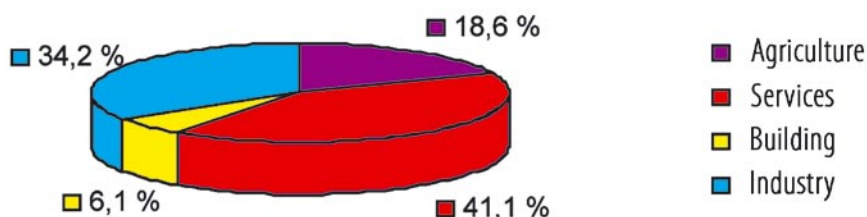
Sustainable development and growth of the main sectors of modern economy are inseparably linked with achievement of harmony in interaction of the society, industry and environment. The National Program "Strategy of Economic, Political and Cultural Development of Turkmenistan until 2020" and the measures taken in the country in accordance with the goals of this national program have provided the objective prerequisites for efficient realization of the requirements of the UN conventions - CBD, CCD and FCCC.

The stable surplus of the balance of payments of Turkmenistan within the last years has been contributing to the increase of reproduction rates, implementation of large-scale social and environmental programs in the state. Annually, the State Budget of Turkmenistan appropriates up to 5% of financial resources for environmental purposes. Turkmenistan pays at due time its fees to the relevant structures that manage the mechanisms of global environmental conventions financing.

1.1.1. Macroeconomic situation in Turkmenistan

Earlier, before gaining the independence, Turkmenistan mainly produced raw commodities; its agrarian specialization conditioned the high share of agriculture in the economy - 40%, and in industry the share of mining branches prevailed. In 1999–2004, the total share of industry in GDP accounted for 33% on average. The share of mining production in the added value of the industry reduced twice due to the growth of light and food industries (up to 30%). The share of agriculture in GDP in 2004 stood at about 19%, construction – over 6%, services – 41% (Fig.1.1) [8, 21].

Fig. 1.1. Structure of GDP of Turkmenistan, 2004



The stable growth of investments is a notable contribution to the sustainable development of the economy of Turkmenistan. The investment policy of the country stipulates:

- state regulation of the investment process and fulfillment of priority tasks in main directions of socioeconomic development;
- introduction of new resource-conservation and environmentally safe technologies;
- construction of new enterprises and upgrading of the existing ones;
- strengthening of social orientation of the economy development to create conditions for the higher employment;
- gradual leveling of socioeconomic development of the regions.

The economic reforms boosted the GDP growth rates, and within the last years Turkmenistan has been holding the leading position in the world by this main indicator of economic progress of a country. In 1991–2004, the GDP production per capita increased 4.5 fold. In 2005, GDP per capita by the purchasing power parity amounted to US\$7.500 [21]. According to the UNDP data (Global Human Development Reports), in 1995, Turkmenistan was on the 103rd place by HDI (human development index), and in 2003, the country posted the 97th place. In classification of the World Bank, Turkmenistan has been moved from the group of low-income countries to the group of middle-income countries.

1.1.2. Demography

Turkmenistan possesses a big human potential. As of the beginning of 2006, 6746.5 thousand people (available population) lived in Turkmenistan; there were 22 cities (including 13 towns), 78

human settlements. Population density was 13.73 people per 1 km². Average annual growth of the population in 2005 was 3%. In total quantity of the population the urban citizens made up 47.3% and rural citizens - 52.7%. The reproduction of the population with its high natural growth is characteristic for Turkmenistan. People under the able-bodied age account for about 32.7%, able-bodied population – more than 61.2% and the population of pension age - approximately 6.1%. High share of young people is a good basis for the stable growth of the labor resources and the population. People of Turkmenistan have a high level of literacy. According to the results of complete census of 1995, in Turkmenistan the level of literacy among people at the age of 9-49 was 99.8% [21].

1.1.3. Employment and standard of living

The labor resources of Turkmenistan are represented mainly by the population of the able-bodied age. The aged people and the teenagers make less than 2% of total potential labor force. Prevailing tendencies in the employment structure condition the reduction of economically active population. In 2005, it stood at 80%, against 80.2% in 2004 and 84.9% in 1991. In many respects it may be explained by increase of the number of women being at maternity leave to take care of children under three years old, and by the growth of well-being of the families, when women can afford not to work and stay with children [21].

Traditional use of natural resources by the population of Turkmenistan is mainly connected with the development of agriculture, as about 53% of the population live in rural area and 49% of labor force is engaged just in this sector of the economy.

The major part of irrigated lands of the country is used for grain and cotton growing (see the Table). Vast desert- semi-desert territories are the main basis for cattle and sheep and goat breeding. The total arable land in Turkmenistan in 2004 amounted to 1915.4 thousand hectares. In comparison with 1991, it increased nearly 1.6 times. Out of total arable land area, 49.6% are occupied by grain crops and leguminous plants (of which 94.9% are sown by wheat), over 32.5% - by industrial crops (of which 99.1% - by cotton), 16% - by fodder crops, 1.9% - potatoes and vegetables, melons and gourds [8].

In agriculture, the enterprises of non-state sector prevail. In 69% of human settlements the agricultural enterprises are represented mainly by farmers' associations of mixed form of ownership. The main form of labor organization is the long-term and short-term intra-farm leaseholding of land for growing of wheat, cotton, rice and other crops. In 21% of human settlements the private farms prevail and in 10% - subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations. Growing of agricultural products at personal subsidiary farms and at the garden-suburban plots provides the households with additional cash income and increases foodstuffs consumption. By the beginning of 2006, over 94% of cattle, 99% of poultry, 82% of sheep and goats, 76% of camels, 75% of horses were in the private sector.

Areas under Agricultural Crops and Perennial Plants (all categories of farms) in thousands of hectares [8, 21]

| Cultivated Crops | 1991 | 1995 | 2000 | 2004 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
|------------------|------|------|------|------|

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