



Key environmental challenges of the Republic of Tajikistan



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Map of Tajikistan



Key characteristics of the country's territory

Tajikistan is a landlocked country in South East part of Central Asia.

Three mountain systems – Tien Shan, Gissar-Alay and the Pamir mountains – cover about 93% of the land area.

The distinct natural environments, ranging from hot deserts to cold alpine areas, feature very diverse fauna. The rich flora varies from drought-resistant grasses and low shrubs on the steppes to the dense forests of coniferous trees covering the mountain slopes.

The climate is continental, but the huge variations in elevation, combined with a very complicated relief structure, create unique regional and local climates, causing great temperature differences with considerable seasonal and daily weather fluctuations.

Legal framework on environmental protection

The system of legal acts in Tajikistan includes: the Constitution; laws adopted by national referendum; international agreements to which Tajikistan is party; constitutional laws; codes and laws.

In environmental area, there are 14 laws, including the framework Law on Environmental Protection, and 5 state programmes.

Provisions on environmental protection are also included in respective sectoral legislation.

Tajikistan acceded to 10 environmental conventions.

Key environmental issues in Tajikistan

Climate change impact



Glacier melting



High risk of natural disasters, such as landslides, mudflows, floods as a consequence of climate change impact, Pamir mountains, Tajikistan

Land management, management of industrial and household waste



Deforestation across the entire country leads to land degradation and erosion, Rasht Valley, Tajikistan

Illegal logging



Deforestation across the entire country leads to land degradation and erosion

Water management



Panj River shared by Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Pamir mountains, Tajikistan

Climate change – the key pressure on natural resources in the Republic of Tajikistan

Natural disasters in Tajikistan cause a huge economic and moral damage. Thousands of people lose their houses; some lose their lives. Annual economic damage is in the range of hundreds million USD. Natural disasters not only cause unpredictable damage but also undermine country's efforts to achieve SDGs and cause additional difficulties in implementation of national programmes and strategies. Environmental and social impacts of climate change are of particular concern.

Climate change impacts are best illustrated by glacier melting in Tajikistan. Tajikistan used to have 14,000 big and small glaciers, that contribute about 60 per cent of flow to the rivers of the region. In the past few decades, over 1,000 glaciers disappeared.



Follow-up to EPR recommendations

As a follow-up to past EPR recommendations, Tajikistan implemented a number of activities:

A) with regard to recommendations on international programmes and agreements:

- CITES and Basel Convention were ratified;
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change is signed, and internal procedures to prepare for ratification are ongoing;

Follow-up to EPR recommendations

B) with regard to recommendations on domestic environmental issues:

- The Red Book of Tajikistan was published;
- Laws on Environmental Monitoring and on Environmental Safety of Road Transport were adopted;
- Programme for Water Sector Reform for 2016-2025 was adopted (para.5: transition to IWRM and basin management);
- Draft Law on EIA was prepared;

Follow-up to EPR recommendations

- Draft Environmental Code was prepared;
- Draft National Waste Management Strategy for 2017-2030 was prepared;
- Enormous work was carried out to decontaminate toxic chemicals and strengthen the environmental safety of Vakhsh and Kanibadam disposal sites for pesticides and toxic chemicals.

Planning to implement recommendations of the 3rd EPR

- The Committee intends to:
 - Carefully study the programmes for development of economic sectors included in the National Development Strategy until 2030;
 - Study and discuss the 3rd EPR recommendations with all staff at all levels;
 - Adapt and use the conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd EPR for implementation of environmental policy to ensure environmental protection in specific economic sectors and in education.

Ташаккур! Спасибо! Thank you!

