

Tajikistan Ratified Kyoto Protocol

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli) made a resolution to ratify the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the 21th of October, 2008.

Participation in the Kyoto Protocol will enable Tajikistan, the country in transition, to benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism CDM (Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol) and implement CDM projects.

One of the main objectives of the CDM is to attract funds for projects contributing to the sustainable development of the country. Therefore, it is expected that project proposals submitted for funding by CDM will not only contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions into the atmosphere, but also facilitate the socio-economic development of the country, as well as provide for rational use of natural resources.

Priorities of the CDM projects include:

- Increase of energy efficiency in households and industrial sector;
- Development of renewable energy sources;
- Shift to cleaner fuels;
- Increase of energy efficiency in transport sector;
- Enhancement of agricultural practices and disposal of organic wastes.
- Reforestation.

Therefore, flexibility mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol will enable Tajikistan to attract investments into projects on: modernization of energy sector, energy efficiency in housing and communal sector and industry, and forestry.

It is important to point out that Republic of Tajikistan will also access other benefits of the Kyoto Protocol. There are a number of them, such as benefits in social sector, i.e. decrease in the rates of respiratory and other diseases resulting from air pollution, reduced vulnerability of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.

Since Tajikistan has a huge potential for development of small hydropower, there is a possibility to attract investments for development of renewable energy within CDM. It is estimated that if existent capacity in small hydropower (18 billion kWh) is utilized in Tajikistan, it can lead to reduction of 5-6 mln. tons of CO₂ emissions per year. Additional socio-economic benefits are: increased employment opportunities for local population and better access to energy, especially in rural areas.