



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

UNFCCC COP29 Pavilion: “Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development”



The Side Event

“Catalyzing Conservation Financing: The Kyrgyz Republic’s Conservation Trust Fund”

CONCEPT

Date: 14 November 2024,

Time: 12:00-13:30

Venue: The national pavilion of Kyrgyzstan, F8, COP29 Blue Zone, Baku city, Azerbaijan

Language: English/Russina (translation provided)

Zoom link: To participate online, please register using the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-qujgqGdN0r0IsqHQreqyWQ8hzhVk_#/registration

Moderator: Lira Zholdubaeva, UNDP, Climate, Environment and Energy Team Leader

Speakers:

- *Mr. Asein Isaev, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic*
- *Ms. Ivana Živković, the Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*
- *Mr. Meder Mashiev, the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic*
- *Ms. Zhibek Duisheeva, the Deputy Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic*
- *Mr. Onno van den Heuvel, Global Manager for Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), UNDP*
- *Mr. Bavo Christiaens, the Fund Portfolio Manager of the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund Office*
- *Mr. Maxim Vergeichik, Senior Nature Economist, UNDP*

1. Background

Kyrgyzstan, globally recognized for its unique biodiversity and pivotal role in ecological systems, is essential for regional and international environmental stability. Despite comprising less than 0.13% of the world's land, the country hosts around 1% of

all known species, showcases a remarkable blend of mountains, forests, and fertile valleys, nurturing a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Among the unique natural resources of the Kyrgyz Republic are endangered species like the snow leopard and Marco Polo sheep, and endemic varieties of fruits, nuts, and crops crucial for global agricultural genetic diversity.

The Kyrgyz Republic's mountainous terrain, a primary source of water from glaciers, rivers, and lakes, is vital not just for its own economy and local communities, but also for neighboring Central Asian countries. Because of this, Kyrgyzstan has earned its reputation as the region's "water towers". However, these resources, are under serious threat from climate change and anthropogenic pressures, necessitating sustainable management strategies and international cooperation to protect them.

The Kyrgyz Republic is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, given its reliance on the most climate-affected sectors of its economy, a circumstance influenced by its geographical, regional, and socioeconomic context that affect the water availability, agriculture, and natural ecosystems. In response to these challenges, the Kyrgyz Republic focuses on the development and implementation of adaptation strategies and sustainable practices, minimizing the impact of climate change. As a result, the Kyrgyz Republic prioritizes climate change adaptation and resilience across all levels. Kyrgyzstan is an active participant in international climate change negotiations and has taken initiatives to integrate mountain country specificities into the global climate agenda.

Despite being a minor contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrates its commitment to the international goals of the Paris Agreement. According to the latest update of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the country has committed to reduce unconditionally greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15.48% from "business as usual" scenario and with an ambitious target of 42.74% reduction with international backing by 2030 and reach the carbon neutrality by 2050.

By focusing on increasing its adaptive capacity, Kyrgyzstan aims to strengthen the resilience of its natural systems. This approach is aligned with regional and global environmental goals, acknowledging the interconnectivity of ecosystems and the importance of sustainable resource management across national borders. Kyrgyzstan's commitment to environmental stewardship is evident in its participation in MEAs. Mountains play a crucial role as primary water sources and habitats for diverse biodiversity and local communities and are central to the country's strategic priorities. However, given their vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the Kyrgyz Republic recognizes and addresses the challenges facing mountain regions and other natural landscapes, including through the initiative «5 Years of Actions for Sustainable Mountain Development» which further highlights its dedication to sustainable environmental practices.

The Conservation Trust Fund of the Kyrgyz Republic (CTF) has emerged as a strategic tool to mobilize financial resources for nature conservation and climate resilience

initiatives, aligning with global conservation efforts such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement.

It acts as a long-term financial mechanism for collaborative efforts between government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and international partners. With a transparent governance structure and robust funding mechanisms, it would ensure that both national and international resources and investments are channeled toward sustainable impactful projects, aligning nature conservation with economic development.

One of the innovative conservation mechanisms that can be promoted within the CTF is the Debt for Nature Swap (DfNS). The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has been actively advocating for DfNS as a means to address both the country's financial obligations and its environmental goals. The CTF will ensure the structured, accountable and transparent fund management process to effectively manage the funds potentially generated through DfNS for environmental conservation initiatives.

In conclusion, the CTF offers Kyrgyzstan a vital opportunity to protect its unique biodiversity and ecosystems while fostering economic resilience. By aligning with international environmental goals and leveraging innovative finance mechanisms, the CTF can ensure that Kyrgyzstan's natural heritage is preserved for future generations, while also contributing to global efforts to combat biodiversity loss and climate change.

2. Objectives of the Side Event

The primary goal of this event is to build momentum for the official establishment of the Conservation Trust Fund by showcasing the fund's critical role and potential impact in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in Kyrgyzstan and engage in a dialogue to explore opportunities to mobilize international support to secure long-term sustainable financing for nature conservation, biodiversity protection, and climate adaptation in the Kyrgyz Republic. The event aims to appeal to potential donor community to mobilize multi-stakeholder support, including technical and financial contributions.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced awareness of the importance of conservation financing and trust funds in achieving biodiversity goals.
- Strengthened interest in the CTF as a sustainable financing model for conservation in Kyrgyzstan.
- Identification of new donor and partner opportunities.

4. Target Audience

- Donor agencies
- Representatives from international organizations
- National delegations and representatives
- NGOs, experts in biodiversity, development finance, conservation trust funds.
- Private sector leaders in impact investing, green finance

5. Organizers

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic

AGENDA

Side-event “Catalyzing Conservation Financing: The Kyrgyz Republic’s Conservation Trust Fund”

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Moderator: Lira Zholdubaeva, UNDP, Climate, Environment and Energy Team Leader

Time	Session and speakers
12:00-12:20	<p>Welcome Remarks and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Asein Isaev, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>- <i>Ms. Ivana Živković, the Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i> <p>Kyrgyzstan’s vision for sustainable nature conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Meder Mashiev, the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>- <i>Ms. Zhibek Duisheeva, the Deputy Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>-
12:20-12:40	<p>Presentation: Overview of the CTF: Mission, strategic priorities, and opportunities for donor participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Melis Mamadaliev, Director of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>-
12:40-13:25	<p>Panel discussion: Unlocking Conservation Finance: From Trust Funds to Blended Finance Solutions</p> <p>The Role of Conservation Trust Funds in Nature Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight the significance of trust funds as mechanisms for securing long-term, sustainable finance for biodiversity conservation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on how conservation trust funds contribute to achieving global biodiversity targets (Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework) and climate goals (Paris Agreement) and national mountain agenda <p><i>Mr. Onno van den Heuvel, Global Manager for Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), UNDP</i></p> <p>Leveraging UN MPTF mechanism as a platform to mobilize conservation finance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight the advantages of the UN MPTF in mobilizing and scaling conservation finance, building donor confidence, and supporting integrated, large-scale conservation initiatives. <p><i>Mr. Bavo Christiaens, the Fund Portfolio Manager, UN Multi Partner Trust Fund Office</i></p> <p>Unlocking Blended Finance Through the MPTF to Leverage Public and Private Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How impact investing, blended finance, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) can support the CTF's goals in Kyrgyzstan <p><i>Mr. Maxim Vergeichik, Senior Nature Economist, UNDP</i></p>
<p>13:25-13:30</p>	<p>Closing Remarks and call to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Asein Isaev, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic</i>