


Aarhus Centre in Osh, Kyrgyz Republic

## Partnership for Natural Resources Management in the Mining Sector

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The bottom section of the slide features five logos: OSCE, ENVSEC (Environment & Security), UNEP, Aarhus Convention (UNECE), and Aarhus Information Centre.

### PARTNERSHIP FOR NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE MINING SECTOR



The mining industry plays an important role in socio-economic development of the country. This development will be possible only upon observance of the principles of sustainable use of natural resources and requirements of legal acts.

Corporative social responsibility, interaction and cooperation between self governance bodies, mining companies, government control bodies and civil sector are key factors of development of mining industry and socio-economic growth of the country in the whole.

Non-observance of these principles leads to the following consequences:

- conflicts between population , mining companies and self governance bodies;
- spontaneous rallies;
- environmental pollution.



The bottom section contains two photographs. The left one shows a stream heavily polluted with rocks and debris, with a person standing nearby. The right one shows a large pile of waste and debris, possibly from a mining operation, with a red vehicle partially visible.

## Partnership for Natural Resources Management in the Mining Sector



### The main causes of the conflicts over natural resources use between the population and mining companies

- Insufficient information and transparency in the activities of mining companies;
- Insufficient social benefits for the local population and employment;
- Non-compliance of mining companies with the requirements of laws on environmental protection and subsoil use (water pollution, deforestation, pasture destruction, abandoned objects of mining industry);
- Road destruction;
- Insufficient literacy and education of the local people on issues of subsoil use and environmental protection;
- Distance, features and geographic location of mining regions.

3

## Partnership for Natural Resources Management in the Mining Sector



### Basic objectives to prevent conflicts related to the use of natural resources :

- Disseminate information on mining companies and inform the public about the changes in the regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Conduct training sessions, training workshops on the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Aarhus Convention;
- Hold meetings to discuss the problems of the mining industry;
- Conduct public hearings;
- Create a platform for cooperation between mining companies, state agencies and the public;
- Ensure public participation in decision-making.



4

## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE AARHUS CENTRE



- Trainings for the public on regulatory legal acts - 10;
- Public hearings on the problems of public participation in the mining industry - 10;
- Meetings to discuss the environmental problems associated with the mining industry - 5;
- Socio-environmental studies among the local population about the impact of mining operations on the environment and human health - 2;
- Monitoring of environmental pollution with the participation of international experts and local population - 4.



## RESULTS ACHIEVED



- In 2014 State agency for Geology held first offsite auctions for 4 gold deposits in Chatkal rayon with public participation; in 2015-12 auctions and 3 contests
- OSCE Centre in Bishkek financed publications of the following manuals:
  1. Practical guide for the local self-governance bodies on legal regulation of subsoil use in KR. OSCE, Bishkek 2013
  2. Responsible mining operations. Instruments for prevention and mediation in conflict situations arising in the process of development of mining sector. 2012 University Eastern Finland, ZOI environment, gaia.
  3. Mining activities, development and environment in Central Asia. Annex to instruments with practical examples. 2012 University Eastern Finland, ZOI environment, gaia.
  4. Environment safety, mining operations and conscientious management. Review of normative legal base in the sphere of mining industry in KR. 2012
  5. Mining activities, development and environment in Central Asia. Collected illustrations. 2012

6



## PROJECTS FOR 2012-2015 SUPPORTED BY KAZ MINERALS BOZYMCHAK



### Kok-Tash rural district of Alabuka region.

- 170 people obtained a job.
- Construction of the road Out Sai-Kok Tash – 31 km, to the sum of 340 million soms (5,5 million US dollars)
- High-voltage power line-11km
- Equipment of sewing workshop (4 sewing machines) and job placement of 8 people.
- Water pipeline in Bulak Bashy village – 3 million soms (50 000 USD)
- Ambulance car – 1 unit
- Study in universities – 9 people, 1 graduate is placed in a job.
- Teaching school children of computer literacy – every year
- Taxes to local budget of Kok tash rural district:
  - 2013-27 721500 soms.(462025 USD)
  - 2014- 14 362700 soms.(239378 USD)
  - 2015. -31 287000 soms.(521450 USD)

7

## PROJECTS FOR 2015 SUPPORTED BY KAZ MINERALS BOZYMCHAK



### Kok-Serek rural district of Alabuka region.

- 170 people obtained a job.
- Bridge repair – 1.5 million soms (25 000 USD)
- Renovation of kindergarten – 1.3 million soms (21.667 USD)
- Renovation of the hospital -1.8 million soms (30 000 USD)
- Mosque - 860000 soms (14 333 USD)
- Study in universities – 7 people
- 3 graduates are placed in a job

Bozymchak Kaz minerals Ltd conducts public hearings every year.

In 2009-2014 Aarhus Centre with the support of OSCE held 4 trainings on normative legal acts in the sphere of subsoil use, environmental protection, about tax payments of mining companies to the local budget and Aarhus Convention for deputies, specialists and civil activists of Koktash and Kokserek rural districts. Experts of Aarhus Centre regularly consulted specialists and heads of rural districts on the given issues. Deputies, representatives of villages and administrations of rural districts discusses every year problems and needs of villages (sessions of deputies, village meetings).

Having selected the most social significant objects the heads of the village district submit resolutions of the village district to mining companies for financial support.

8

## CHALLENGES



- Insufficient information on the environmental conditions in places and transparency in the mining sector;
- Insufficient work of government agencies and local self-governments in providing information and holding public hearings;
- Insufficient literacy and education of the local people on issues of subsoil use and environmental protection;

9

## SUCCESSES AND PERSPECTIVES



Due to conducted trainings, seminars and meetings Aarhus Centre with the support of OSCE has achieved the following results:

- Local people, specialists of self governance bodies increased their knowledge on normative legal acts in the sphere of subsoil use, environmental protection, about tax and other payments of mining companies;
- Requirements of local people comply with laws;
- Spontaneous meetings and actions have been reduced;
- Mechanism of interaction of government bodies, mining companies and local people started to work;
- OSCE participation in promoting issues of mining industry, environment and socio-economic development of the country is important and timely;
- Aarhus Centres of OSCE needs the further financial support for conducting activities on protection of environmental rights of the local people, informing and participation of the public in decision making process in regions of the country

10

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