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## UNECE HELPS KAZAKHSTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN TO COOPERATE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF THE KIROV DAM

A bilateral Kazakh-Kyrgyz working group will review the safety of the Kirov dam and produce a joint safety assessment by April 2011. This working group was established on 4 February in Bishkek. Representatives from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan agreed that the group would work under the Kazakh-Kyrgyz Chu and Talas Rivers Commission.

Kazakhstan has recently raised concerns about the safety of the Kirov dam, which is situated on the Talas River, on Kyrgyz territory upstream of the major Kazakh city of Taraz. Kyrgyz authorities agreed to develop cooperation on the safety of this dam in response to this concern. The two countries requested UNECE to support and facilitate this work.

This positive example of cooperation responds to the need to ensure the safe exploitation of the ageing water infrastructure in Central Asia, in particular the hundreds of dams and reservoirs built 40 to 50 years ago. Dams and reservoirs are of major importance for the economy and future development of the region — they ensure drinking water supply by contributing to seasonal and long-term regulation of river flows; and they provide a reliable source of water for irrigation, industrial water uses, and hydropower.



Dams and reservoirs are also efficient means of controlling floods and droughts. Today, ageing dams and lack of funding for their adequate maintenance, coupled with population growth downstream from the dams, represent increased risks to life, health, property and the environment. Less than a year ago, the failure of the Kyzyl-Agash Dam in Kazakhstan caused the flooding of the nearby village, killing at least 43 and leaving some 300 people injured.

The dam safety project funded by Finland, a component of the UNECE Water Convention work programme, is implemented in cooperation with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. The project assists Central Asian countries in establishing effective national legislation and technical

regulatory frameworks, as well as in strengthening regional cooperation on dam safety. The project has already resulted in the development of legislation on dam safety and cooperation in this area between the countries in the region. The project is part of the Environment and Security Initiative. □

For further information please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/damsafety.htm>

or contact Bo Libert at:

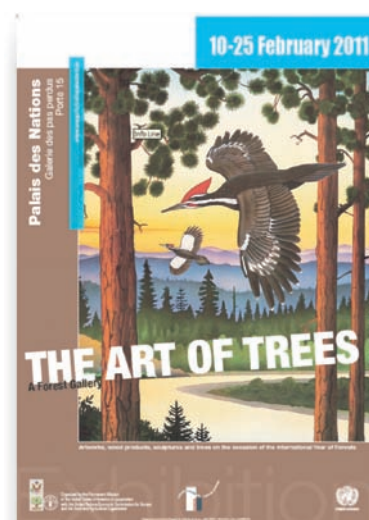
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## EXHIBITION - THE ART OF TREES 10 - 25 FEBRUARY, PALAIS DES NATIONS

To celebrate 2011, the International Year of Forests, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in partnership with the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and UNOG's cultural activities, is organizing an exhibition about forests, forest illustrations and forest products from North America and Europe. 'The Art of Trees' will take place in Galerie des Pas Perdus, at the Palais des Nations, from 10 to 25 February.

Almost 100 living trees will be displayed, together with illustrations from the American artist Monte Dolack and other forest and wood products.

This tree exhibition will be an occasion to reflect on the contribution of forests to economic, environmental and social wellbeing. □





## SEMINAR ON "ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION"

11 FEBRUARY 2011, PALAIS DES NATIONS

UNECE launches a new series of seminars on environmental issues. The first session will discuss "Adaptive Management as an instrument to support effective implementation of environmental policies in countries in transition".

Adaptive Management is recognized as a promising alternative approach directly addressing links between social and ecological systems and involving stakeholders in the analysis and decision process. This "soft path" requires special tools to facilitate collaboration between "experts" and stakeholders in analysing complex situations and prioritizing policies and actions. The application of this approach in environmental management allows developing more realistic policies and supporting the policies more effectively through implementation and compliance

mechanisms. It is especially relevant in countries in transition where uncertainties in these fields are especially high.

Dr. Jan Sendzimir, Research Scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria, will present the concept of Adaptive Management and share the findings of his research on policy development projects in four major river systems in the UNECE region. He will also discuss tools such as conceptual and formal modeling, social simulation exercises (role-playing games) and scenario development.

The seminar will take place on Friday, 11 February 2011 at 14.30 – 16.00 in Palais des Nations, Salle XXV (Building E 1<sup>st</sup> floor) □

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## KYRGYZSTAN RECOGNIZES ROLE OF UNECE PPP PROGRAMME AS KEY TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT

A UNECE-led delegation on public-private partnerships (PPP) visited Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic, on 26-27 January 2011, to conduct a series of bilateral meetings with senior officials from a number of ministries and municipal authorities. These included, among others, Deputy Ministers at the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Energy, the First Deputy Major of Bishkek, and senior officials from the Ministry of Finance.



Meeting between the UNECE-led delegation and the Minister of Economic Regulation, Uchkunbek Tashbaev, on 27 January 2011. Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Minister of Economic Regulation, Sanjar Mukanbetov, and representatives of the Kyrgyz PPP and Investment Promotion Center

At one of these meetings, the Minister of Economic Regulation, Uchkunbek Tashbaev, stated that in order to develop PPPs in the Kyrgyz Republic, it was necessary to work in two directions: improving the enabling environment for PPPs; and implementing a pilot project in the Kyrgyz Republic. This is precisely the role of the UNECE national PPP readiness assessment. At this

meeting, it was agreed that the readiness assessment should be undertaken by a team of international and national consultants under the umbrella of UNECE, with a view to presenting results to the Government in the course of 2011.




The UNECE national PPP readiness assessment is a diagnostic tool that focuses on issues related to the general investment climate in a country, including the business climate, and the financial, macroeconomic, legal and governance environments. This exercise leads to a better understanding of what issues need to be addressed within the enabling environment in order to do PPPs effectively. It also helps to identify a number of potential pilot projects that could be carried out in the country.

In his opening remarks at a UNECE workshop on PPP on 26 January 2011, the Deputy Minister of Economic Regulation, Sanjar Mukanbetov, highlighted the importance and the urgency of developing PPP in the Kyrgyz Republic, and the need to introduce effective legal and institutional frameworks for PPP development. The workshop, co-organized with the Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic, was attended by some 120 participants from the public and private sectors, and drew the support of the Business and Investment Development Council and the newly created "PPP and Investment Promotion Center". □

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