



PROJECT INFORMATION

Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) in Kyrgyzstan

Updated: January 2022



Tailings management facility of the Altynken mine in Kyrgyzstan

Source: Oleksandra Riedl (SDP)

Background

Kyrgyzstan has rich deposits of mineral resources. Mining activities are an extremely important branch of the economy in the Kyrgyz Republic, which contributes significantly to the gross national product. The retention of mine waste has very low safety levels, with a high risk to people and the environment in the vicinity of these facilities. Improperly designed, handled, or managed TMFs pose a threat which could trigger industrial accidents, including accidents with transboundary effects. Therefore, the safety level of Kyrgyz TMFs has to be updated and renewed according to the requirements of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Project details

With the project activities and results the project team strengthened the technical and management capacity of the local experts at the concerned facilities and responsible authorities by providing them with practical tools. Centerpiece is the TMF safety checklist methodology, developed by the German Environment Agency, which was updated and enhances the evaluation of TMF safety conditions and recommends measures to improve them. Competent authorities, TMF operators, concerned stakeholders and the public in the Kyrgyz Republic were encouraged to apply these tools. Moreover, the consultants compiled an inventory of Kyrgyz TMFs, which includes both TMF mapping and risk assessment. Finally, the experts defined the main steps to update the state cadaster system and the alert system and identified TMFs with possible transboundary impacts. In addition, they produced an instructional video on the TMF checklist methodology to support its future application. Finally, the project team together with representatives of competent Kyrgyz authorities has developed policy recommendations to ensure sustainable use of project results and improve the safety of TMFs.

Beneficiary country:

Kyrgyzstan

Duration: 06/2021 – 12/2021

Beneficiaries: Department of Geology and Subsoil Use of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Service of Environmental and Technical Supervision under the Ministry, Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, local government bodies, TMF operators, non-governmental organisations

Implementing organisations: NGO Sustainable Development Platform (Ukraine), Country office of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) in Kyrgyzstan

Project number: 154973

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