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# Global Sustainable Mountain Development

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## Abstract

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Global sustainable mountain development refers to the collective efforts aimed at promoting sustainability and addressing the specific challenges faced by mountainous regions worldwide. Kyrgyzstan, as a mountainous country has initiated a declaration of 2002 the International Year of Mountains in 1998 and made significant contributions towards solving problems in such regions through various initiatives and collaborations. Mountains are vital hotspots that encompass a wide range of valuable resources, both natural and cultural, hosting unique and diverse ecosystems and livelihoods. Therefore, it is crucial to address the specific challenges faced by mountainous countries and promote sustainable development within the Global Mountain Agenda.

**Key words:** Bishkek Declaration, Bishkek Mountain Platform, Global Mountain Agenda, International Year of Mountains, Kyrgyzstan, mountain ecosystems and livelihoods, sustainable mountain development

## Глобалдык Туруктуу Тоо Өнүгүүсү

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## Аннотация

Глобалдык туруктуу тоо өнүгүүсү туруктуулукту илгерилетүүгө жана дүйнө жүзү боюнча тоолуу аймактар туш болгон конкреттүү көйгөйлөрдү чечүүгө багытталган жамааттык аракеттерди билдирет. Кыргызстан тоолуу өлкө катары 1998-жылы 2002-жылды Эл аралык тоо жылы деп жарыялоо демилгесин көтөрүп, түрдүү демилгелер жана кызматташуулар аркылуу мындай аймактардагы көйгөйлөрдү чечүүгө чоң салым кошкон. Тоолор табигый жана маданий баалуу ресурстардын кеңири спектрин камтыган, уникалдуу жана ар түрдүү экосистемаларды жана ошондо эле жашоо тиричилик үчүн өтө маанилүү аймак болуп саналат. Ошондуктан, тоолуу өлкөлөр туш болгон конкреттүү көйгөйлөрдү чечүү жана Глобалдык тоо күн тартибинин алкагында туруктуу өнүгүүгө көмөк көрсөтүү өтө маанилүү.

**Негизги сөздөр:** Бишкек декларациясы, Бишкек тоо платформасы, Глобалдык тоо күн тартиби, Тоолордун эл аралык жылы, Кыргызстан, тоо экосистемалары жана жашоо каражаттары, тоолорду туруктуу өнүктүрүү

## Chapters:

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### 1. Introduction

Before the beginning, we would like to say that for several of years Academician Aidaraliev worked in the Russian Far East as the Director of the Institute for Biological Problems of the North, the Far Eastern Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The “*perestroika*” process initiated by the President Gorbachev in that time gave us a possibility to establish contacts with the University of Alaska and several other American scientific institutions. Together with the American Association for Advancement of Science, my

institute has organized conference entitled: “Bering Bridge: Present and Future”. He took part in reorganization of the Magadan Pedagogical Institute into the Magadan University with participation of specialists from the University of Alaska and Hokkaido University, and had an idea to create the International University of Kyrgyzstan which would work according to the Western standards. In 1993, he returned to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, and organized the International University of Kyrgyzstan, co-founded by San Francisco State University. He suggested to the colleagues from the American Association for

Advancement of Science to hold a conference similar to the one held in the Russian Far East, they decided to organize conference in 1996 named: “High Mountain Research: Changes and Perspectives in 21st Century”.

The resolution of conference included a paragraph on the need to organize the International Year of Mountains. This idea was supported by the President of our republic Askar Akaev. He wrote a letter addressed to the United Nations Secretary General. And with this letter, Academician Aidaraliev went to the New York made meetings and discussions with many delegations, together with Representation of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations, a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly was prepared. As a result, in 1998, by Resolution A/RES/53/24, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains.

managing and sustainably utilizing the resources in mountainous areas is crucial for the well-being of both local communities and the global environment.



**Fig. 1** Mount Everest: Profile from top to bottom (Photo by H. Kreuzmann, 2006)

## 2. The Global Mountain Agenda

It refers to a set of actions addressing the specific issues related to sustainable mountain development. Moreover, it encompasses a range of issues and goals that are vital for the well-being of mountain ecosystems (Fig. 1), local communities, sustainable livelihoods, and poverty reduction We would like to highlight that

It is essential to take into account the environmental impact of resource extraction and find positive effects (Table 1), while also on and preservation of fragile mountain ecosystems. Additionally, considering the social and economic aspects is vital to ensure that local communities benefit from the resources in a fair and equitable manner, fostering sustainable livelihoods and promoting social well-being.

**Table 1** Land Degradation within Pamir-Alai Mountains

Degradation type	Degradation processes	Severity		
		Western Alai	Central Alai	Eastern Alai
Soil degradation	Water erosion	High	Moderate	High
	Wind erosion	Low	High	Low
	Salinization	High	High	Moderate
	Fertility decline	High	Low	Low
Vegetation degradation	Deforestation	High	Low	High
	Reduction in vegetative cover	Moderate	High	Moderate

Source: Jansky and Pachova, 2006:110

By involving all stakeholders, governments, and organizations, we can create a sustainable approach that protects mountain ecosystems while harnessing their resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The Global Mountain Agenda will continue to play a critical role in addressing the unique challenges faced by mountainous regions worldwide and promoting sustainable development in these areas. It provides a framework for coordinated action, knowledge exchange, and policy development, enabling us to tackle the complex issues of mountain regions more effectively.

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