Regulatory and Legal Framework Governing the Protection and Use of Plant Resources in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Red Book of Kyrgyzstan

The plant world is a national treasure of the Kyrgyz Republic and a key factor in the ecological balance of the biosphere. It is an integral part of the landscape and species diversity of the natural environment, a major store of solar energy and biological mass, one of the principal sources of oxygen on Earth, and a regulator of water runoff, air-mass temperature, and soil erosion processes.

The plant world must be protected and used rationally to meet the spiritual, material, and health-related needs of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

This Law establishes the legal foundations for ensuring effective protection, rational use, and regeneration of plant resources.

Bishkek

20 June 2001, No. 53

LAW OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF THE PLANT WORLD

(As amended by the Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic dated

24 June 2003 No. 114; 26 February 2007 No. 21;

22 October 2009 No. 284; 2 March 2010 No. 39;

6 July 2016 No. 99; 25 July 2016 No. 135;

23 March 2020 No. 29)

Adopted by the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic on 22 May 2001

SECTION I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Protection and Use of the Plant World

Relations in the field of protection and use of the plant world in the Kyrgyz Republic are governed by the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Environmental Protection,” the Forest Code, this Law, and other regulatory legal acts.

Article 2. Basic terms used in this Law

Objects of the plant world or natural plant resources include all types of wild plants: above-ground and underground parts, including roots, seeds and flowers; herbaceous vegetation; medicinal and technical plant raw materials; wild berries; walnuts, pistachios and sea buckthorn fruits; rare and endangered plants; trees and groups of trees; shrubs; willow stands; reeds and cane; as well as mosses, algae, fungi, lichens, and similar organisms. Objects of the plant world are classified:

by purpose — as food, fodder, medicinal, or technical resources;

by prevalence — as widespread, locally or limited in distribution, rare, or endangered.

The plant world (vegetation) is the totality of natural vegetation types or plant communities that differ in composition, structure, location, and significance. These are grouped according to their types of phytocenogenesis and time of origin and cover the Earth or individual territories. They are characterized by the number and combination of different plant communities, their spatial distribution, structure and dynamics, as well as the range of plant life forms.

General provisions

State administration of the protection, use, and regeneration of objects of the plant world

Use of objects of the plant world

Protection and rational use of objects of the plant world

State inventory of objects of the plant world and monitoring of their protection and use

- Resolution of disputes concerning the protection and use of the plant world

Procedure for bringing this Law into force

- The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall, within three months, bring its regulatory legal acts into conformity with this Law. Until the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic is brought into conformity with this Law, only regulatory legal acts that do not contradict this Law shall apply.

The Red Book of Kyrgyzstan

- The Kyrgyz Republic has a great diversity of animal and plant species. This is supported by the altitudinal zonation of natural areas, which are varied across much of the country's territory. This diversity calls for sufficiently strict nature-protection measures. To this end, environmental legislation has been adopted, the Red Book has been established, and 3.9% of the country's territory has been designated as specially protected natural areas.

The Red Book lists rare animal and plant species that are threatened with extinction. Every country has its own Red Book. The International Red Book was published in 1976. The Red Book of the USSR was first published in 1978.

- In 1981, the Government of the Kirghiz SSR adopted a resolution to establish a republican Red Book, which was published in 1984. It has not been reissued since, although it was supposed to be updated every four years. In recent years, a special commission of scientists and specialists responsible for monitoring the situation and making regular amendments and additions to this important document has not convened.

No special studies have been conducted to count the populations of species listed in the Red Book. Scientists at the republic's Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences believe that data submitted annually by reserve staff are not always accurate. There is a reason: the reserves are not funded, and their staff are therefore unable to work as they should.

- An updated edition of the Red Book of Kyrgyzstan was planned for 2005. At that time, the forestry service, together with the Biology and Soil Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan, was conducting field expeditions to identify animals and plants on the brink of extinction or already extinct within the republic for inclusion in the book.

The Red Book of the Kirghiz SSR, published in 1984, consists of six sections:

1. Mammals — 13 species: Menzbier’s marmot, snow leopard, red deer, goitered gazelle, dhole, marbled polecat, Central Asian otter, Turkestan lynx, Tien Shan brown bear, and mountain sheep.

2. Birds — 32 species: white and black storks, bar-headed goose, whooper swan, golden eagle, Himalayan griffon (snow vulture), saker falcon, black grouse, great bustard, demoiselle crane, short-toed snake eagle, white-tailed eagle, ibisbill, imperial eagle, and others.

3. Reptiles — 3 species: grey monitor lizard and the transversely striped and red-striped snakes.

4. Fish — 2 species: Turkestan catfish.

5. Insects — 19 species: fragrant ground beetle, common swallowtail, green rose chafer, and others.

- 6. Plants — 71 species: Pskem onion, sweet flag, elecampane, Kashgar barberry, Kyrgyz sainfoin, Greig’s, Kaufmann’s and Zinaida’s tulips, and others; Semenov fir (Turkestan fir), Petunnikov’s almond, Persian and Turkestan rowan, Central Asian pear, Uzun-Akhmat grape, and others.

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION