

Adaptation to climate changes – are the governments prepared for them?

Key findings and recommendations:

The Government of Ukraine adopted specific measures to implement the national policy on climate change adaptation. The terms on development of appropriate national strategies, sectoral and regional plans were defined; procedure for the preparation, review, approval and implementation of projects aimed at reducing anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases was regulated; mechanisms for exchanging relevant data and coordinating bodies were established.

However, the lack of coherence of the state authorities, along with the lack of financial resources for this purpose was not conducive to the timely approval of national and sectoral action plans to mitigate climate changes and adapt to these changes, which led to the transfer of relevant terms. As a result, there is a risk of unpreparedness to climate changes in time.

Ukraine received considerable economic advantages to attract foreign investment in environmental protection through the mechanism of clean development and use of funds under the UNFCCC. At the end of 2011, it reached over 1 bln. USD. A half of this amount was received by the enterprises of Ukraine because of joint implementation projects.

To make efficient use of funds received by the Government of Ukraine, a set of measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC was agreed, according to which adaptation measures are implemented at the local level. In addition, some steps for processing geographical and topographical issues (e.g. monitoring and alerting) were taken.

However, due to long-term implementation of these measures and their incompleteness, Ukraine has not obtained the expected environmental and socio-economic results yet.

The audit revealed the need to accelerate the development and approval of the final basic policy framework on adaptation to climate change, development and phased implementation of action plans.