

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Implementer: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC).

Title: Enabling transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy through development and launch of the regional information hub - Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP)¹. CACIP is designed to collect and visualize public-domain climate and climate-relevant data, knowledge products, analytical information and learning materials to help stakeholders improve awareness, assessment, good governance and decision making.

Focused areas: 1, 2, 4, 8, 9:

1 Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; 2 Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 4 Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; 8 Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; 9 Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2019-2024 years.

Description of the action: The Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP), which was developed in 2019-2021 and is undergoing a beta testing at the moment, contributes to innovations in climate communication and addresses key gaps in the CA region pertaining to access to climate information and related knowledge base for adaptation and mitigation measures. The CACIP makes available comprehensive and up-to-date relevant climate data and information, linking with high-quality datasets from global, regional, and local sources and provides analytical tools and interfaces for the visualization and interpretation of data and information. Acknowledging the multitude of existing portals providing access to different sources of information, the CACIP platform acts as a one-stop-shop (portal) for climate data and knowledge for Central Asia. The CACIP team is currently implementing a needs assessment of CACIP target users (national and local government agencies, IFIs and international development partners, think tanks, academic and research institutions, business, NGOs, land users). Results of needs assessment will provide up-to-date feedback from CACIP users to improve effectiveness of engagement with different stakeholders in the region and strengthen knowledge exchange activities. After full launch of the CACIP, the relevant knowledge networks will be created and existing networks will be recharged through targeted webinars, thematic discussions and competitions, bilateral cooperation arrangements with different knowledge partners (on proposal development and resource mobilisation, data sharing, development of e-tools, analytical research, joint publications, provision of online training).

Type of action: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments and (c) information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: The action is covering the sectors: climate change, energy, water, agriculture, environment, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, transport, waste, tourism and housing.

¹ The platform was established with the support of the World Bank financed Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB). CAREC implements the project's regional component since 2016 and will continue to do so till May 2024, during which the CACIP platform will be supported as well.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Project budgets of the “CACIP” project implemented in cooperation and with support of CA governments, international, national and regional partners;

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: CAREC and interested stakeholders in the CA countries will use the CACIP to disseminate information for raising awareness, provide access to data, instruments and tools on climate change and sustainable development, build capacity for strengthening cooperation in the Central Asian region, monitoring and reporting on accomplished results.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG7 – Affordable and clean energy, SDG13 Climate Action, and SDG17 Partnerships for SDGs

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Contents of the CACIP; agenda, LoP, contents and outcomes of the CACIP trainings/ workshops/ sessions/ events/ conferences.

Partners:

CAREC, the World Bank-funded regional project “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Regional partners: IFAS, ICWC, ICSD.

National partners, including Hydromets, Ministries of Environment Protection, Energy, Economy, State Statistics Committees.

CACIP offers a suitable platform for improved donor coordination.

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES / NO)**
- *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure²” does the action contribute:*
 1. Strategic planning;
 2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
 6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
 9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
 10. Evidence-based decision-making.
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES / NO)**

² The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.