

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)

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2016-2024 years

Title: Support green economy and climate action through implementation of the “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB) of the World Bank’s International Development Association and Green Climate Fund in 2016-2024.

Focus area 2, 3, 9:

2 Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 3 Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; 9 Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: Support transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and provide key stakeholders in CA countries with regionally-coordinated access to enhanced climate change information services, scaled up investment and capacity building activities.

CAMP4ASB provides key stakeholders in CA countries with regionally-coordinated access to enhanced climate change information services, scaled up investment and capacity building activities. As a whole, this allows for a more effective response to common climate challenges. The project implementation period is August 2016 – May 2024, and it is funded by the International Development Association and Green Climate Fund. The project’s primary piloting areas are Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

TARGET GROUPS: National counterparts, working in the area of climate resilience and sector-based development; Local communities, including farmers, water user associations, pasture management, villagers, private companies;

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To enhance regionally coordinated access to improved climate change knowledge services for key stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, communities, and civil society) in participating Central Asian countries as well as to increase investments and capacity building that, combined, will address climate challenges common to these countries.

CAREC has an observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is an official member of the UNFCCC’s Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN), and a member of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

CAREC’s project CAMP4ASB initiated and successfully implemented a series of dialogues between representatives of the MFA and CA parliamentarians. A delegation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ (IPCC) took part in the dialogue.

At the 52nd Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held during February 24-28, 2020, CAREC was granted the IPCC observer status. This landmark achievement resulted from a number of actions and events that took place in the course of 2019. In particular, the representatives of CAREC, an observer at the UNFCCC, and the CAMP4ASB Project Team supported a series of events with the participation of IPCC representatives, including a side event at COP-25 in Madrid on December 12, 2020. Ways to work together with academia, university priorities, and research opportunities in the region were identified. Also, participation in preparing the IPCC assessment reports was granted.

The meeting of specialists from the region’s hydrometeorological centers identified an urgent need in improving the forecast quality. Different tools and methodologies were adapted and tested. Training by international experts were organized for hydrometeorological services.

¹ IPCC is a UN organization founded in 1988 to carry out regular assessment of climate change risks.

Coverage of climate change in mass media and social networks progressed to a new level in the last 3-4 years. A series of regional and national training by experts (including those from the IPCC) for the region's journalists sparked the interest in climate change.

Well-coordinated access to information services on climate change and training materials at the regional level implies use of modern information and communication technology. Efficient response to common climate risks was ensured by the Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP), which was developed in 2019-2021 and is undergoing beta testing at the moment. 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.

According to monitoring results, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan run climate risks that affect the agricultural output. Adaptation measures are conditional on climate investment, which is a relatively novel activity for rural communities. In this regard, a series of trainings were offered to build the capacity of the groups involved in climate investment. Such groups had been selected among participants of the investment project on use of the climate fund: specialists from banks that give loans, national project implementation teams, and farmers.

Collaboration with public environmental organizations and civil society networks continues to improve climate change actions in the region. Support was provided to national events by climate networks in Central Asia.

Type of action: Grants and investments in climate-smart and environmentally friendly practices by farmers; information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: cities; sectors, including: agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, mining, manufacturing, transport, water, waste, tourism and housing, buildings and construction;

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Project budgets of the "CAMP4ASB" project implemented in cooperation and support of the World Bank's International Development Association, Green Climate Fund, IFAS, CAREC.

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: The CA countries accepted and implemented required green measures and actions in all sectors of economy and have accessibility to new knowledge and information.

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: Agenda, LoP and outcomes of the meetings/workshops/ Regional Conferences on Climate Change for CA countries (CACCC) in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and CACIP platform.

Partners:

Regional partners: IFAS, ICWC, ICSD, CAREC.

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

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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;
 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.

- **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.