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Implemented by:
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Green Central Asia
Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience

Green Central Asia: Transboundary dialogue on climate, environment and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan

Context

Human-induced climate change is not only an environmental phenomenon, but also one of the main security threats of the 21st century. Climate change is therefore becoming an ever-greater risk multiplier that threatens the stability of societies, nation-states and entire regions.

Climate change also poses growing security concerns in Central Asia and Afghanistan, where it has a particularly severe impact on glaciers and natural resources such as water, land and soil. This has consequences for food security, water availability, a healthy habitat for humans, flora and fauna. Thus, consequently, the stability of the region as a whole is at stake. This is why in January 2020 the German Federal Foreign Office launched 'Green Central Asia', a regional initiative on climate and security embracing the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan – as a part of a preventive and stabilising foreign policy and to support the updated EU-Central Asia Strategy of June 2019.

Our objectives

The regional policy dialogue strengthens transboundary cooperation on climate change impacts in Central Asia and helps prevent conflict.

Programme name	Green Central Asia: Transboundary dialogue on climate, environment and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Programme region	The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan
Main Partners	Ministries of Foreign Affairs of CA countries
Duration	04.2020 - 03.2024

Our measures

The Green Central Asia Regional Programme implemented by GIZ under the initiative of the German Foreign Ministry aims at improving access to information and risk analyses in order to enable participating countries to assess the impact of climate change more accurately and to take preventive measures. At the same time, dialogue fora and workshops are meant to increase states´ resilience and decision-makers' ability to adequately address security hazards resulting from climate change at national and regional level.

The programme team also promotes conflict prevention and trans-boundary cooperation. Support is also provided to develop the capacity of partner institutions in the field of environmental management.

L.to r.: Joint Declaration of Intent was signed by all partner countries at the high-level Green Central Asia conference in Berlin. January 2020.

Vaksh River at Nurek, Tajikistan.

Pg 2: Kyzylorda Area, Kazakhstan.

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Photos: © GIZ / AA , Dr. Caroline Milow

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Target groups and partners

The key partners of the Programme are the foreign ministries (and, through them, the respective institutions responsible for climate and environmental resources, including educational and research institutions) of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan as well as Afghanistan. In a broader sense, the Programme reaches out to the population of the Aral Sea Basin, who benefits from improved adaptation to climate change and thus from a politically more stable region.

In 2022, participating countries start working on the following topics, where our Programme also provides assistance:

- Development of a regional document on climate change adaptation;
  - Glacier monitoring, modelling - coordination and cooperation in Central Asia;
    - Discussion of a mutually agreeable mechanism for water-energy cooperation;
      - Climate risk management in Central Asia.

Our results to date

In May 2021, a regional inter-governmental working group was established, with representatives from relevant Central Asian ministries, to develop a Regional Action Plan within the framework of the Green Central Asia Initiative, which was working to create a common document.

The Regional Action Plan's priorities are:

- Climate change impact on regional water resources management;
  - Climate change impact on land management and biodiversity;
    - Cooperation and contribution to international instruments;
      - Waste management, in particular e-waste.

In November 2021, the Regional Action Plan was agreed upon and adopted by all parties. It provides for regional political dialogue on high as well as working level and defines joint actions within the framework of regional priorities agreed by the parties; since the political dialogue is based on science and informed decision-making capacity building activities are also defined. Cooperation within the defined activities were discussed with various regional and international partners such as the European Union (EU), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank Group (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) with civil society partners: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Central Asian Geosciences Institute (CAIAG) in Bishkek/Kyrgyz Republic.

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