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Green Central Asia

Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience



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Green Central Asia: Newsletter

MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE ON THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR CENTRAL ASIA IN DUSHANBE



In May, multilateral dialogues on the joint implementation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia were held in Dushanbe, Tashkent, Bishkek, Almaty (in person) and Ashgabat (online). These events marked an important step in supporting the preparation and implementation of the Strategy, with the participation of experts from the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI), Germany.

The dialogues in Central Asia brought together a wide range of participants, including members of the Regional Working Group on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, representatives of the Secretariat of the Interstate Commission on Water Coordination (ICWC), and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The final regional dialogue provided an opportunity for the CLI team of independent experts to prepare recommendations with options and best proposals for the implementation of the 'Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia'.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY: FROM PLANNING TO ACTION



On the margins of the 'Central Asian Climate Change Conference' in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 27-29 May, the Green Central Asia Programme brought together representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other relevant line ministries and government agencies of the Central Asian countries for a meeting of the Regional Working Group on the implementation of the 'Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia'. The main objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the vision of the CA countries on the implementation process of the Strategy, coordinate priorities, work plan and terms of reference for the establishment of the Strategy Secretariat.



REGIONAL CONSENSUS: ESTABLISHMENT OF A VIRTUAL SECRETARIAT

On 25 July, the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia held its second meeting in Tashkent.

The main objectives were to discuss the countries' vision for the establishment of the Secretariat and its possible location in one of the CA countries, to agree on priority steps for the development of a roadmap for the implementation of the Strategy, and to exchange views on

the CA countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the upcoming 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29).

After heated discussions, the working group came up with the idea of establishing a virtual secretariat for a period of one year as an interim solution. In order to move the process forward, the GIZ Regional Programme «Green Central Asia, Phase II» took over the administrative start-up for the launch of the Virtual Secretariat.



THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP'S REGULAR MEETING ON THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

On 29 November, Bishkek hosted the third regular meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on the implementation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia.

Participants from five Central Asian countries met to discuss recommendations for implementing the Strategy and developing mechanisms for identifying adaptation projects and attracting funding for their implementation. Issues related to the newly established Temporary Secretariat of the RWG were also on the agenda.

In particular, the elected Head of the Secretariat was introduced, who shared the first work plans and priorities of the RWG Secretariat. Participants also reviewed the draft Regulation on the RWG, which outlines the working procedures and interaction between RWG participants and the Secretariat and were presented with a report by the Collective Leadership Institute containing specific recommendations to ensure the most effective implementation of the Strategy – the result of extensive work by the Institute's team together with representatives of government agencies and organisations from Central Asian countries.



REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The «Dialogue on National Strategies and Action Plans for Biodiversity Conservation», organised by the National Centre for Biological Diversity and Biosafety together with the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, took place from 30 July to 1 August in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, with the support of Green Central Asia II. The event brought together representatives from Central Asian government agencies, international organisations and local communities to align Tajikistan's biodiversity conservation strategies with the Kunming-

Montreal Global Framework for Biological Diversity. Participants discussed key issues such as the integration of global biodiversity protocols into national plans, capacity building, the development of a national biodiversity financing plan and the establishment of an integrated monitoring system. They also noted the importance of regional cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders for effective management and conservation of biodiversity.



RECOGNITION AND RELEVANCE OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME ON ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 11-12 September, two GIZ programmes, Green Central Asia II and Climate Risk Management in Central Asia, supported the 14th Conference of the Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development.

The conference was organised by the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC) in cooperation with the Swiss initiative Blue Peace Central Asia and the OSCE Programme Offices in Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe. Thematic areas of the conference were glacial horizons, mountain disaster risk management, water diplomacy, transboundary waters, glaciers, high altitude lakes, and water resources management.

The activities of the GIZ programmes were presented, and representatives of the Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre and the Institute of Geography and Water Security were invited to review topics in the study of cryosphere components together with studies of mudflows, avalanches and landslides in the mountainous areas of Ile Alatau.

The Green Central Asia programme organised a visit to the Emergency Centre for the delegates, followed by a trip to the Alma-Arasan Gorge to visit hydroelectric power stations and Lake Almaty.



PERSPECTIVES OF CENTRAL ASIA'S WATER AND ENERGY AGENDA

The third meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) to discuss a mutually beneficial mechanism for water and energy cooperation in Central Asia was held in Tashkent on 10 December.

The Green Central Asia Programme II organized this event together with the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Project of the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety which is implemented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



The meeting brought together representatives of the Ministries of Energy, Water Resources and Foreign Affairs, specialised institutions in the field of renewable energy and hydropower, Central Asian analytical and research institutes, and the international community active in this field in the Central Asian region.

In particular, in order to jointly address the changing socio-economic, environmental and climate challenges, the participants identified the need to establish enhanced water and energy cooperation in Central Asia, as well as opportunities for interaction and synergy between energy and water sector organisations.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



On 12 December, an equipment handover ceremony was held as part of the national project 'Sustainable and Resource Efficient Irrigation in Agriculture in Uzbekistan', the develoPPP.de programme of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with WILO SE company.

GIZ Programme Manager Dr. Caroline Milow thanked the Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan and the German company WILO for the implementation of the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding.

The Wilo Group, one of the world's leading suppliers of high-quality pumps and pumping systems for construction, water supply and industrial sectors, has supplied industrial pumps to three Basin Irrigation System



Administrations (BISA) in the Kashkadarya, Bukhara and Andijan regions.

The BISAs also had the opportunity to receive modern office equipment, including laptops, tablets, cameras, printers, etc.

Participants at the ceremony noted that public-private partnership (PPP) projects play an important role in areas where business opportunities intersect with development initiatives.



EU FOR A GREEN TURKMENISTAN: “POLICY DIALOGUE AND CLIMATE ACTION 2024-2028” AS PART OF GREEN CENTRAL ASIA, PHASE II

The Program is implemented in Turkmenistan on behalf of the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office and is aimed at:

- › Strengthening EU-Turkmenistan relations and policy dialogue in the area of energy, environment and climate policies,
- › Implementing and maintaining of international and EU best practices and standards, enhancing EU-Turkmenistan cooperation concerning climate change, promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency by reducing methane emissions, as well as by increasing awareness and understanding of the EU and its role in the country, the region of Central Asia and the world,
- › Stimulating of socio-economic development by supporting the implementation of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate.

The Program activities are carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and the State Concern “Turkmengas”.



Green Central Asia

EU for a green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024-2028

Context

In July 2019, the European Union (EU) opened a fully-fledged EU Delegation in Turkmenistan. Since then, the number of business and official delegations visiting Turkmenistan increased significantly and signal a mutual strategic interest to intensify relations. Bilateral relations between the EU and Turkmenistan are governed by an Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters, which entered into force in August 2010, pending ratification of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) by the European Parliament. The EU Strategy on Central Asia of June 2019, together with the related Council Conclusions of June 2019, provide the EU's overall regional framework for engagement.

The EU Action “EU for a green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024 – 2028” in the framework of the Turkmenistan Cooperation Facility 2022-2023 is part of and contributes to the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia, which is an EU Global Gateway flagship initiative. The Global Gateway is the EU's contribution to narrowing the global investment gap worldwide.

This EU Action is jointly co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by GIZ as part of the Foreign Office project “Green Central Asia Phase II: Transboundary Dialogue on Climate, Environment and Security in Central Asia – Bridging borders to enhance regional adaptation and mitigation”.

Turkmenistan and the Central Asian region are at the forefront of experiencing the impacts of climate change, facing significant challenges now and potentially even more in the future. Climate change caused by, among others, methane and GHG emissions into the atmosphere manifests itself in rising temperatures, low precipitation and shrinking mountain glaciers. It is becoming a critical risk to national and regional security in Central Asia and poses additional challenges to geopolitical, socio-economic and environmental issues related to water, energy and land use.

Turkmenistan's government recognizes the importance of the global climate agenda and takes respective measures at national, regional, and international levels.

At the international level, Turkmenistan has ratified respective climate-related conventions, as well as supported the Paris Agreement and committed - as proposed in the NDC - to reducing GHG emissions

Project name	EU for a green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024-2028
Commissioned by	European Union
Co-funded by	European Union and German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)
Budget	4.770.000 EUR
Main partners	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan “Turkmengas” State Concern
Duration	1.04.2024 – 31.03.2028

by 20% until 2030 under the BAU scenario relative to 2010 level emissions. During the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-28) in Dubai, UAE, Turkmenistan acceded to the Global Methane Pledge.

At the regional level, within the frame of the Green Central Asia Initiative, Turkmenistan actively participated in the elaboration of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia and was the first among the Central Asian countries to approve the Strategy. In addition, Turkmenistan proposed to create a Regional Center for Climate Technologies for the countries of Central Asia under the auspices of the UN.

At the national level, Turkmenistan has adopted a number of important national programs and strategies such as the National Strategy on Climate, the National Strategy on Renewable Energy Development, etc. as well as a series of legislation aimed at sustainable development taking into account climate change issues.

There is also an increasing understanding that the economic and climate-related challenges ahead cannot be tackled individually and require collective efforts. In this respect, the project will support to realize Turkmenistan's policy objectives for sustainable green growth by applying international and EU best practices and standards.



L. to r.: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Photo: © GIZ/ Mural Nuryyeva

Objectives

- Continue and reinforce EU-Turkmenistan relations and policy dialogue in the area of energy, environment and climate policies.
- Support the implementation of international and EU best practices and standards and enhancing EU-Turkmenistan cooperation concerning climate action, promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, by reducing methane/GHG emissions and by increasing awareness and understanding of the EU and its role in the country, the region and the world.
- Enhance socio-economic development by supporting the implementation of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate (2019) in particular on adaptation measures concerning ‘Eco-systems (Flora and Fauna) and Forestry’ and ‘Education, Staff Training and Awareness’.

Our measures

The project measures will centre on establishing an effective dialogue and strategic partnership between the EU and government institutions of Turkmenistan and peer-to-peer exchange with capacity building as well as implementing small-scale pilots showcasing adaptation measures to climate change. The following relevant measures will be applied:

- EU-Turkmenistan policy dialogue consisting of annual meetings on the implementation of the EU- Central Asia Strategy, policy dialogue events on Green Deal, energy, climate and environment and organisation of networking and study trips to Europe
- Supporting Turkmenistan in developing national policy documents in the sphere of renewable energies/energy efficiency and environmental protection
- Capacity building in the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate in conjunction with the procurement of selected teaching and laboratory equipment
- Supporting Turkmenistan in joining international activities in the area of methane gas reduction such as active participation in the Global Methane Pledge and in the International Methane Observatory
- Increasing awareness by developing a public outreach strategy on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and energy saving with the Ministry of Energy and its implementation
- Development and implementation of one small-scale pilot project on methane reduction and one on climate change adaptation in the environment sector. Selected equipment for the pilots will be procured
- A feasibility assessment on the development of a digital cadastre for RES.

Intended results

- MoUs are signed with Turkmen partner organizations, namely the Ministry of Energy and “Turkmengas” State Concern;
- Effective dialogue on energy, climate and environment partnership between the EU and government institutions of Turkmenistan are created
- Interaction with and awareness of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and the general public on necessary climate change adaptation and energy policy measures in different sectors are increased
- Capacities of governmental actors in designing tailor-made adaptation measures are strengthened and support for the development of legislative actions in line with international and European best practices on the deployment of (small scale) renewables, increased energy efficiency, methane/GHG emissions and ‘eco-systems (flora and fauna) and forestry’ is provided
- Exchange on good practices and scientific research on utilization of RES, energy storage and detection, monitoring and reduction of methane emissions is established
- Pilots showcasing adaptation measures concerning teaching about RES, energy storage and detection, monitoring and reduction of methane emissions and climate change adaptation measures for the protection of the environment are implemented.

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NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN TURKMENISTAN

On September 9, 2024, the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary hosted the National Youth Conference on Climate Change (LCOY 2024). The event was organized by the Government of Turkmenistan with the support of the EU for a green Turkmenistan project implemented by GIZ.

The conference, held in anticipation of the upcoming COY19 Youth Conference in Baku, aimed to educate

participants on the latest developments in climate change and their effects on both Turkmenistan and the global community. It also featured educational sessions covering various aspects of climate change. The event actively involved young people in discussions about climate issues, enhanced their contribution to Turkmenistan's national and international climate commitments, and encouraged youth-led initiatives and projects that support sustainable development and climate action.



EU FOR A GREEN TURKMENISTAN: FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

On September 11, the Steering Committee for the new EU co-financed, “EU for a green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024-2028” convened its first meeting in Ashgabat.

The Steering Committee consisted of representatives from the EU Delegation, the German Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, the State Concern “Turkmengaz”, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan and the GIZ project team.

During the meeting the project's terms of reference (ToR), the operational plan, pilot initiatives and communication and visibility concept were presented and formally approved by all participating parties.
3/ EU for a green Turkmenistan: official kick-off meeting
On September 13, an official kick-off meeting took place in Ashgabat for the new GIZ project ‘EU for a green Turkmenistan’.

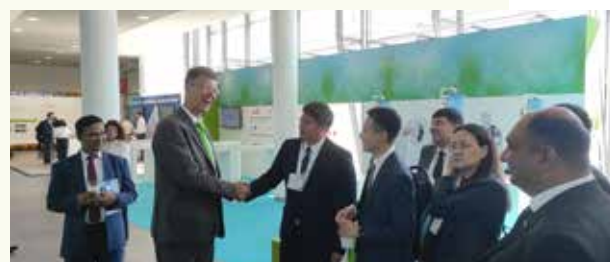
The project launch was preceded by the signing of a MoU in May between the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, the State Concern “Turkmengaz” and GIZ. The parties agreed to strengthen and expand their bilateral partnership in energy, environmental protection, and climate policy.



STUDY TOUR: HOW IS WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZED IN GERMANY?

Fifteen water and environment specialists from five Central Asian countries participated in a study tour to Munich, Germany, from 12 to 17 May, in order to enhance the capacity of Central Asian specialists in integrated water resources management and surface and groundwater quality in accordance with the European Union's Water Framework Directive.

Meetings were organised for the participants with representatives of the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the international exhibition «IFAT 2024», where they were introduced to advanced and innovative technologies in the field of water treatment, water purification, recycling and waste management.



3RD REGIONAL FORUM OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS IN DUSHANBE



On 10 June, as part of the High-Level Conference, the third Regional Forum of Basin Organisations took place in Dushanbe. The Forum was jointly organised by the USAID Regional Water and Environment Project and the GIZ/SDC Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia Programme, in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Forum gathered more than 140 participants and included a number of thematic sessions that provided participants with information on legal aspects of water management at the basin level; existing institutions, tools, and mechanisms for developing basin organisations; best practices in bilateral cooperation at the basin level; and international experiences in promoting the principle of basin management.

38TH BALKHASH-ALAKOL BASIN COUNCIL MEETING IN KAZAKHSTAN

The programme provided full support to the subsequent 38th meeting of the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council on 21 June in Almaty, Kazakhstan where such important issues as flood conditions in the Balkhash-Alakol Basin and the development and provision of land in water protection zones and strips were discussed.

The Basin Council meeting was attended by 35 members of the Basin Council, consisting of local Akims, heads of departments and divisions of the Ministry of Water Resources.

At the end of the meeting it was decided to send the decision of the 38th meeting of the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council to the local executive bodies, the specialised environmental prosecutor's office of the region and the owners of hydraulic structures to coordinate work on the prevention of the above-mentioned problems.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF SPECIALISTS OF CENTRAL ASIAN BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

On July 2-4, 2024, a workshop was held in Tashkent to discuss the results of the needs assessment and situation analysis in Central Asian universities.

One of the objectives of the project is to strengthen the capacity of specialists from regional and national basin water organizations in the field of climate-sensitive integrated water resources management. To achieve this goal, the project concluded a grant agreement with the Martin Luther University (MLU, Germany) to develop a climate- and gender-sensitive training concept and methodological materials on IWRM for regional and national basin organizations.

The workshop was attended by representatives of higher education institutions of Europe, such as Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany and ETH Zurich – Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland and of Central Asia as Kazakh National Agrarian Research University, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I. Scriabin, Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik Agrarian University named after Shirinsho Shotemur, Turkmen Agricultural University named after S.A. Niyazov, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers National Research University (“TIAME” National Research University) and Urgench State University.



SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND KAZAKHSTAN

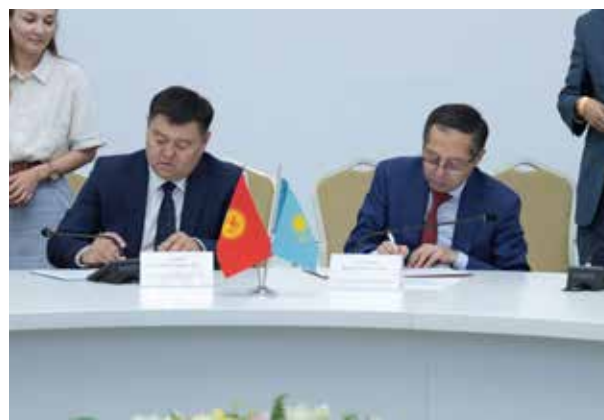


The Programme supported the 34th meeting of the Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the use of interstate water management facilities on the Chu and Talas River basins, held on July 27 in Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul region.

The Kazakh delegation was headed by Nurjan Nurjigitov, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, while the Kyrgyz delegation was led by Almazbek Sokkeev, Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry and Director of the Water Resources Service.



Key issues discussed included the implementation of water intake schedules from interstate sources and facilities on the Chu and Talas rivers, the volume of work completed on interstate facilities as of July 20, 2024, and the co-financing of the operation and maintenance of interstate water management facilities by Kazakhstan.



SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR EFFICIENT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



A first coordination meeting of the restructured Water Resources Service of the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic was held on September 7, 2024 in Issyk-Kul. The event brought together key stakeholders, including Water Resources Service employees, district and rayon Water Management Department heads, and representatives from the “Development of Drinking Water Supply and Sewerage” project.

The primary aim of the meeting was to develop sustainable strategies for efficient water resources management. Participants focused on improving irrigation, drinking water quality, and sanitation systems, while receiving updates on ongoing projects and future plans. The session also facilitated discussions on forming partnerships to ensure the long-term protection and management of water resources, recognizing their social and economic significance.



STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF RIVER BASIN ORGANISATIONS IN TAJIKISTAN



Within the framework of the Programme a ceremony of handing over the equipment such as generator, computers, monitors, printers, etc. was held at the GIZ office in Dushanbe on 10 September 2024. The equipment was intended to improve technical capacities of the basin organisations in the Zerafshan, Kafirnigan, Vakhsh and Panj river basins in Tajikistan.

The equipment was provided to enhance the operational capacity of the River Basin Organisations in their efforts to manage water resources effectively and sustainably in response to climate challenges. This initiative forms part of the broader effort to strengthen institutional capacities and ensure the successful implementation of water management strategies in Tajikistan.



CAREC CONDUCTED CROSS-BORDER TRANSBOUNDARY TRAININGS FOR WATER SECTOR SPECIALISTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

As part of the second component of the programme, 10 gender-sensitive trainings on climate resilient Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at national, transboundary and regional levels were held in Kazakhstan (Taraz, Shymkent), the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek, Osh), Tajikistan (Khudjand, Dushanbe), Turkmenistan (Ashgabat) and Uzbekistan (Khiva) between October and December.

These trainings were the first in a series of capacity building activities for basin organisations, with more planned until the end of 2025. The trainings were developed and delivered by the Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC).

The aim of the trainings is to provide practical knowledge on the implementation of IWRM in the context of climate change and to teach water management technologies. Special attention was given to automated systems that can improve water use efficiency in agriculture.



AN EXPANDED MEETING OF THE YESIL BASIN COUNCIL



On October 23, an expanded meeting of the Yesil Basin Council took place in Astana, supported within the framework of the Programme.

The event was attended by representatives of government bodies, scientists, representatives of public organizations and enterprises, as well as specialists from neighbouring countries — Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The main topics of discussion included reducing water losses, establishing water protection zones and strips, and implementing flood control measures in the Yesil Basin, which includes the Akmola and North Kazakhstan regions, as well as certain districts of the Karaganda and Kostanay regions.

87TH MEETING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR WATER COORDINATION (ICWC) FOR WATER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

On November 6, 2024, the 87th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The Programme assisted the Turkmen side, represented by the national project

partner, the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan, in organizing the event, and supported the participation of delegations from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.



SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE 'WATER IN CENTRAL ASIA: FUTURE IN COOPERATION'

Together with other national and international organisations, the programme supported the scientific-practical conference «Water in Central Asia: Future in Cooperation», which took place in Tashkent on 8 November 2024.

The aim of the conference was to establish a dialogue between decision-makers and experts and to create a partnership of experts to strengthen the interaction between policy and science in Central Asia on the main directions for improving water resources management taking into account the water-energy-soil nexus. Dr Caroline Milow gave a presentation on the «Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in Central Asia - Green Central Asia Initiative».



SECOND MEETING OF THE BASIN DIALOGUE IN THE AMU DARYA RIVER BASIN IN URGENCH

On 4 December 2024, the second meeting of the Amu Darya River Basin Dialogue was held in Urgench, Uzbekistan.

«Water knows no borders. Cooperation between the countries along the Amu Darya is crucial to ensure equitable and sustainable use of this precious resource, especially in the context of climate change. Switzerland, together with Germany and the EU, is pleased to support the Central Asian countries in this endeavour», said Ms. Lisa Marina Gampp, Regional Water and Climate Change Advisor, Programme Manager Regional Water Infrastructure and Climate Change, Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan.

«It is encouraging to note that regional cooperation in Central Asia is supported by the joint efforts of the European Union, Germany and Switzerland. This cooperation will further strengthen our joint work» - underlined Dr. Caroline Milow, GIZ Programme Manager.



INCEPTION REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING OF WATER QUALITY FOR THE AMU DARYA RIVER BASIN

On 4 December, the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Water Quality for the Amu Darya River Basin, involving Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, took place in Urgench, Uzbekistan.

The workshop was attended by authorised representatives appointed by each Central Asian country (representatives of the Central Asian Ministries of Water Resources Management, relevant line ministries), as well as representatives of the international partners of the programme.



The participants underlined that the countries of the Amu Darya basin are already making efforts to improve the water quality management system, but due to certain shortcomings in the area of national policies, technical support and regional cooperation, this issue requires further efforts. It was decided to actively work towards the establishment of an inter-governmental working group on water quality of the Amu Darya River.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF BASIN INSPECTIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN

On 9 December, the first batch of technical equipment for basin inspections was handed over to the Ministry of Water Resources of Kazakhstan. This equipment will serve as a key tool to improve the efficiency of water resources monitoring and management, as well as to enhance the analytical capacity of national specialists. The initiative aims to support the sustainable development of the water sector while addressing the challenges of climate change.



STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE KYRGYZ HYDROGEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

To strengthen the capacity of the State Enterprise ‘Kyrgyz Hydrogeological Expedition’ under the Water Resources Service of the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, modern IT equipment was handed over on 4 December. This initiative seeks to improve the effectiveness of

groundwater monitoring and optimize water resources management in the context of climate change. By addressing these critical challenges, the program contributes to sustainable development and the protection of the region’s natural resources.



SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GIZ AND IFAS

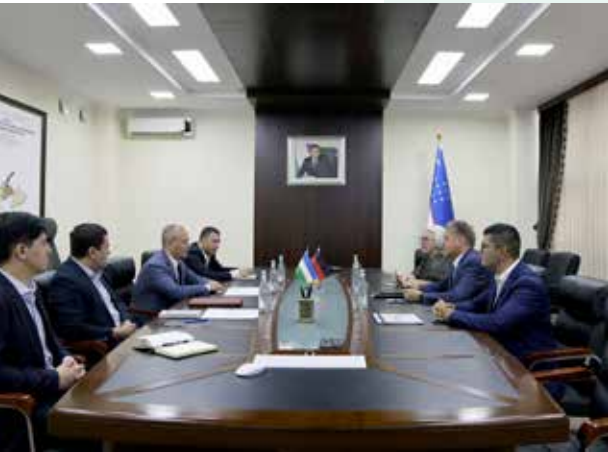
On 18 September, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea held a coordination meeting in Astana, the first since the beginning of Kazakhstan’s current chairmanship of the organisation.

The meeting was attended by representatives of various international organisations and diplomatic missions, who presented the results of the implementation of their respective projects and planned future activities. Dr Caroline Milow, GIZ Programme Manager, gave

a presentation on «Green Central Asia» and «Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia». At the end of the coordination meeting, the Chairman of IFAS Executive Committee Askhat Orazbay and GIZ Country Director in Kazakhstan Joachim Fritz signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) reaffirming the existing commitments between the parties regarding the implementation of projects in the fields of climate change, environmental protection, water resources, renewable energy, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture under the Green Central Asia Initiative.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BETWEEN GIZ AND THE MINISTRY OF MINING INDUSTRY AND GEOLOGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



On September 20, the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan hosted a meeting between representatives of the Ministry headed by the First Deputy Minister Mr. Omonullo Nasritdinhodjaev and representatives of GIZ, Mr. J. Fritz, Country Director, GIZ in Uzbekistan and Dr. Caroline Milow, GIZ Programme Manager.

At the meeting, First Deputy Minister Mr. Nasritdinkhodjaev emphasized the importance of cooperation with GIZ, with whom many successful projects have been jointly implemented. It was noted that implementation of several projects aimed at rational use of water resources, maintenance of the state water cadastre, and development of a unified Central Asian groundwater information system waterbase.uz is ongoing.

At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Regional Programs “Green Central Asia, Phase II” and “Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia” implemented by GIZ and the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

 JANUARY	22 January	Second meeting of the Syr Darya River Basin Dialogue, Tashkent
	23 January	Partner Dialog of the program «Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia» and EU4SustainableCentralAsia: Climate Action and Coordination on Water, Energy and Climate Change
	23 January	Steering Committee Meeting Climate sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia & EU4SustainableCentralAsia: Climate Action and Coordination on Water, Energy and Climate Change
 FEBRUARY	12-13 February	Regional Workshop for Central Asian countries on the results of the 3rd reporting round on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and exchange of experience in using reporting as a tool for developing transboundary cooperation
 MARCH	4-5 March	The Second Central Asian Forum on Electronic Waste FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION, Dushanbe
	11 March	4th Regional Working Group Meeting on Joint Monitoring of CA Glaciers



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Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience

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