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Green Central Asia

Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience



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PARTNER DIALOGUE STRENGTHENS REGIONAL COOPERATION ON WATER RESOURCES



Tashkent, 23 January – A dynamic Partner Dialogue meeting in Tashkent set the stage for stronger regional cooperation, bringing together key voices from across Central Asia and beyond. With national stakeholders and international development partners in the room, the event focused on one shared goal: managing water resources more effectively for a sustainable future.

At the heart of the meeting was the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River Basin Dialogue, where policy-makers, project implementers, and climate and disaster risk experts joined forces to tackle the region's most pressing environmental challenges – from water scarcity to land degradation.

Held annually ahead of the Project Steering Committee meeting, the Partner Dialogue Forum is more than just a meeting – it's a platform for action. It's where feedback from partner countries takes center stage and shapes the direction of regional initiatives.

This year's forum welcomed official representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and key line ministries of all five Central Asian countries. Alongside them were development partners deeply invested in water resource management – all united by a common commitment to cooperation and innovation.

With conversations flowing and partnerships deepening, the Partner Dialogue reaffirmed that sustainable water management in Central Asia depends on one key resource: collaboration.

WOMEN TAKE THE LEAD IN TAJIKISTAN'S WATER SECTOR

Dushanbe, 31 January 2025 – Women are stepping up and shaping the future of water in Tajikistan. At a spirited gathering in Dushanbe, 22 women from across the country came together to plan the next chapter of the Kafirigan Basin Women's Forum, with support from the Green Central Asia – Phase II programme, implemented by GIZ.

The meeting focused on setting priorities for the upcoming 5th Women's Forum and strategizing how to boost women's influence in water sector decision-making. And the message was clear: women are not just participants – they are leaders, innovators, and changemakers in water management.

The attendees, representing government agencies like the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation, and the Committee for Environmental Protection, along with scientists and civil society leaders, brought a wealth of experience and passion to the table.

Two priority topics were chosen: 'Women and Education: Human Resources in the Water Sector and Environmental Literacy' and 'Climate Change and its Impacts: The Role of Women in Mitigation'.

For reference:

Launched in 2023, the Kafirigan Basin Women's Forum was created to give women and youth a seat at the table in water governance. With more than 26 active members — from ministries and NGOs to academic institutions, community organisations, and gender experts — the Forum is quickly becoming a bold and inclusive force for change.





FROM FIELD TO FUTURE: WOMEN LEAD THE WAY IN SMART FARMING IN THE KAFIRNIGAN BASIN

Dushanbe, 20 February 2025 – Women of the Kafirnigan River Basin Women's Forum are transforming agriculture from the ground up. In a high-energy training session held in Dushanbe, participants learned cutting-edge irrigation techniques designed to tackle the region's twin challenges: water scarcity and climate change.

The women were trained to fine-tune irrigation based on soil types, crop needs, and shifting weather patterns, equipping them with practical tools to make their farms more resilient and productive.

But this was not just a technical session – it was a moment of empowerment. Women left the training not only with knowledge but with a renewed sense of purpose: to become champions of sustainable farming in their communities.

In a region where water is limited and the climate is changing fast, these women are proving that innovation, leadership, and local know-how are the keys to a thriving agricultural future.



BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER WATER COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN TASHKENT

Tashkent, Uzbekistan – On 12–13 February 2025, over 60 water and environmental experts from across Central Asia came together in Tashkent for a dynamic regional workshop focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 – transboundary water cooperation.

Participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – including representatives from national agencies, international organizations, and civil society – gathered to share best practices and explore how progress reporting can serve as a powerful tool to foster cooperation over shared water resources.

The two-day workshop aimed to accelerate regional efforts toward SDG target 6.5, which calls for integrated water resources management at all levels, including across national borders. Attendees examined existing challenges, brainstormed actionable solutions, and mapped out concrete steps to enhance collaboration over transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers.

This timely event was organized by the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNESCO, and the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC), with technical and financial support from the GIZ regional programme.

For reference:

In September 2015, during the High-level Meeting on Sustainable Development held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the 193 Member States of the United Nations officially adopted a new sustainable development agenda, entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This agenda includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely 17 goals and 169 targets. The goals include Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all, with its target 6.5 “By 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”.

In 2023, 129 states of the world, including four Central Asian countries, submitted their third report on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Based on the provided reports, a review report “Progress on transboundary water cooperation: mid-term status of SDG indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on climate change, 2024” has been prepared.





STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN TURKMENISTAN: EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan – On 25 February, the second Steering Committee meeting of the project “EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action for 2024–2028” was held at the Natural Gas Research Institute in Ashgabat.

As part of the EU’s flagship Global Gateway Initiative – the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy, and Climate Change in Central Asia – the project aims to support Turkmenistan’s transition to a greener and more climate-resilient future.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the EU Delegations in Astana and Ashgabat, the German Embassy in Turkmenistan, and senior officials from Turkmenistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Energy, State Concern “Turkmengas,” and the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan at the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, emphasized the EU’s strong commitment to climate collaboration: “The EU and Turkmenistan are committed to tackling climate change through a strong partnership. Leveraging initiatives like the European Green Deal and Team Europe, we are working together to support Turkmenistan’s green transition through policy dialogue, capacity building, and impactful pilot projects.”

German Ambassador Bernd Heinze echoed this commitment, noting: “Our growing cooperation



underscores our shared determination to promote environmental sustainability and implement effective, practical solutions that enhance climate resilience.”

The committee reviewed progress on current pilot projects, evaluated financial performance, and endorsed the 2025 Annual Operational and Communication Plan, setting a clear roadmap for the year ahead. Discussions also explored new strategies to ensure ongoing initiatives align with Turkmenistan’s green development goals and the EU’s broader sustainability agenda.

This meeting marks another step forward in strengthening regional partnerships and turning shared climate goals into action – bridging borders, building resilience, and shaping a more sustainable future for Central Asia.

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: CENTRAL ASIAN E-WASTE FORUM

Dushanbe, Tajikistan – The growing challenge of electronic waste took center stage at the Second Central Asian E-Waste Forum, held on 4–5 March 2025. Hosted in Dushanbe, the forum brought together more than 80 participants from across the region to chart a path toward more effective and sustainable e-waste management.

Organized under the Green Central Asia programme (Phase II), the event was led by GIZ and the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD Center), with strong backing from the Committee on Environmental Protection of Tajikistan, UNITAR, and other international partners.

A Comprehensive Approach to E-Waste

“Solving the problem of e-waste requires a comprehensive approach. It’s not just about recycling, but also sustainable production, smarter product design, and waste prevention,” emphasized Mr. Martin Langer, Permanent Representative of Germany to Tajikistan, during his keynote address. “This Forum is a vital opportunity to exchange best practices and strengthen partnerships between governments, businesses, and civil society.”

Attendees included representatives from national waste management and statistics agencies, private sector innovators, and NGOs from all five Central Asian countries. Globally engaging experts also joined the conversation, including experts from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Circular Economy Partnership (CEP), the BRS Conventions Secretariat, the German Federal Environment Agency, and the Prevent Waste Alliance.

Driving Regional Solutions

The forum served as a regional hub for knowledge sharing, strategy development, and collaboration. Participants discussed practical steps to harmonize e-waste policies, enhance expert cooperation, and scale up national initiatives with regional alignment.





ASB DROUGHT MONITORING TOOL: RESULTS TO DATE

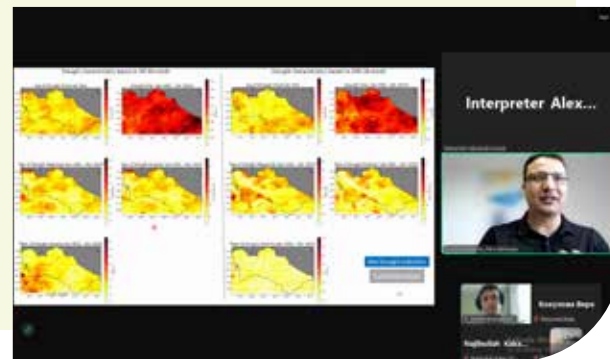
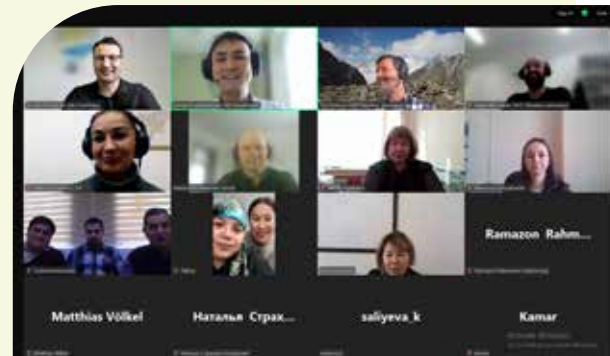
Online – On 28 February 2025, hydrometeorological services from across Central Asia gathered virtually with German scientists to review the latest results from the ASB Drought Monitoring Tool, a key innovation developed within the Green Central Asia Initiative.

The online session brought together climate and water experts from the region alongside researchers from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences GFZ. The German team provided insights into the tool's methodology and shared drought data collected throughout 2024.

A standout highlight came from GFZ's space-based monitoring efforts. Using radar altimetry sensors, scientists can now observe even small rivers and reservoirs from orbit – providing unprecedented accuracy in tracking water levels and drought conditions across Central Asia.

Participants engaged in a lively Q&A, particularly interested in the tool's potential for improving weather forecasting. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to collaboration: regional hydrometeorological agencies agreed to provide field data to enhance and validate satellite-derived information, ensuring the tool's effectiveness and local relevance.

This ongoing cooperation marks a significant step in strengthening drought resilience and climate adaptation across Central Asia – powered by innovation and united by shared environmental challenges.



REGIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON GLACIER MONITORING AND MODELLING IN CENTRAL ASIA

Tashkent, Uzbekistan – On 11 March 2025, Tashkent hosted the meeting of the Regional Working Group on Glacier Monitoring and Modelling in Central Asia, bringing together climate experts and government representatives to advance regional collaboration on protecting one of the region's most critical resources: glaciers.

The key outcome of the meeting was the agreement on a joint roadmap for 2025–2026, setting out coordinated actions for glacier and glacial lake monitoring across Central Asia. Participants also outlined practical steps to improve cooperation among countries, defined responsibilities, and discussed how to integrate cutting-edge technologies into glacial lake surveillance – all in alignment with international partners and frameworks.

This milestone meeting builds on the UN General Assembly Resolution on glaciers and supports the implementation of the Green Central Asia Regional Action Plan, reinforcing a united front against the growing impacts of climate change in high mountain areas.

“Collaboration is key when dealing with transboundary climate risks. By aligning our methods and technologies, we not only improve glacier monitoring but also foster long-term resilience,” said one participant during the session.

History of Collaboration

The Regional Working Group (RWG) was established as part of the Regional Action Plan, with members from



national agencies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and a monitoring role from Turkmenistan. In 2023, seven scientific institutions from four Central Asian countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue joint glacier research.

Key achievements to date include:

- A scientific expedition to Tuyuksu Glacier (Kazakhstan, 2023)
- Hands-on training in remote glacier monitoring using tools like ArcGIS (2024)
- Development of advanced forecasting models and data tools under Green Central Asia

Looking ahead, the Working Group is focused on finalizing and implementing harmonized regional approaches – not only among national agencies but also with international scientific and environmental stakeholders.

With glaciers shrinking under rising global temperatures, the urgency for regional action has never been greater. This meeting marks another strong step toward securing the region's water towers and building a climate-resilient future together.

TURKMENISTAN LAUNCHES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC OUTREACH STRATEGY ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mary, Turkmenistan – On 24 March 2025, Turkmenistan took a major step toward a greener future by launching the development of its Public Outreach Strategy on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency. The first round table discussion was hosted at the Turkmen State Energy Institute in Mary, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to shape the nation’s green communication efforts.

EU-funded projects SECCA and RECA, youth SDG ambassadors, students, and NGOs. It was held under the umbrella of the EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028 project, funded by the EU and implemented by GIZ.

The round table focused on three core objectives:

- Defining the concept and value of the Public Outreach Strategy
- Shaping the structure and format of the document with inclusive stakeholder input
- Empowering youth and women as key champions of green transition

“With over 300 sunny days a year, Turkmenistan is uniquely positioned to lead in solar energy. This strategy



The event gathered representatives from key national ministries, the European Union Delegation to Turkmenistan, the Embassy of Germany, UNDP,

is about informing, inspiring, and involving everyone – especially the younger generation – in building a sustainable energy future,” noted one participant.



Turkmenistan’s national Renewable Energy Development Strategy to 2030 and the Youth Roadmap for Climate Change Action 2025 serve as cornerstones for this outreach initiative, aligning closely with the goals of the Paris Agreement and sustainable development.

In a parallel event on the same day, the project facilitated the handover of modern IT equipment to the Research and Production Center “Renewable Energy Sources” at the State Energy Institute. This equipment upgrade aims to boost research capabilities and support local innovation in renewable energy technologies.

Together, these initiatives highlight Turkmenistan’s growing commitment to a low-carbon, energy-efficient future – and to making every citizen part of the solution.





TURKMENISTAN'S NATURAL GAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE ESTABLISHES A CUTTING-EDGE INFORMATION-ANALYTICAL CENTER

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan — 26 March 2025

A major milestone in Turkmenistan's green transition was marked with the official launch of the Information-Analytical Center at the Natural Gas Research Institute of the State Concern "Turkmengas". The new center is now equipped with cutting-edge IT systems and diagnostic tools designed to modernize methane emissions monitoring and advance scientific research.

The handover of high-performance IT equipment sets the stage for enhanced data collection, validation, and analysis. These capabilities are critical for tracking methane emissions using satellite data and developing innovative solutions to reduce environmental impact in the natural gas sector.

Beyond technology, the new center will serve as a hub for capacity building, offering workshops, training programs, and exposure to European best practices in green innovation and digital transformation. Specialists from Turkmengas and the Research Institute will now gain hands-on experience with the latest tools and methodologies for climate-conscious gas sector development.

"It is essential to integrate digital systems into scientific institutions in the gas sector," emphasized a representative of Turkmengas. "Studying and implementing EU best practices will elevate our work and help us meet international standards."



This initiative directly supports Turkmenistan's commitments under the Global Methane Pledge and the Paris Agreement, reinforcing the country's drive toward cleaner, more sustainable energy systems.

As the Information-Analytical Center begins its work, it promises to be a catalyst for green innovation, strengthening Turkmenistan's scientific capabilities and accelerating its path toward a low-carbon future.

WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dushanbe, Tajikistan – 25 April 2025

More than 50 passionate and inspiring women from across Tajikistan came together for the Fifth Kafirigan River Basin Women's Forum, a powerful platform amplifying women's roles in the fight against climate change and for water sustainability. Held in Dushanbe under the theme "Women's Voices in the Era of Climate Change: Equitable and Effective Management for Water Sustainability," the Forum brought together professionals from the water sector, agriculture, education, and health, along with grassroots activists and community leaders.

Organized under the Green Central Asia initiative, the event spotlighted the vital role of women in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – particularly in the context of the transboundary Kafirigan River Basin. Discussions focused on strengthening women's involvement in water governance, adapting to climate impacts, and promoting sustainable development.

From Dialogue to Action

Throughout the day, participants shared firsthand experiences, identified key challenges, and explored new opportunities for women's engagement in decision-making. They collaborated to formulate a set of concrete recommendations for national and local water management bodies aimed at ensuring gender-inclusive policy and planning.

One of the highlights of the Forum was the presentation of the ongoing results from past Women's Basin Forum activities in the Kafirigan River region – showcasing the

impact of consistent, grassroots engagement. The Forum concluded with the adoption of a joint statement, urging for the active inclusion of women in the development of the Kafirigan River Basin Management Plan 2026–2030. This statement has been formally submitted to the Kafirigan River Basin Council, marking a step forward in embedding gender equity into regional water governance.

With this fifth edition, the Women's Forum reaffirmed a clear message: climate resilience and sustainable water management in Central Asia cannot be achieved without women's voices at the table.





39TH MEETING OF THE BALKHASH-ALAKOL BASIN COUNCIL IN KAZAKHSTAN

In December 2024, Almaty hosted the 39th regular meeting of the Balkhash-Alakol Basin Council, held with support of the project «Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia.» The event brought together key stakeholders to tackle pressing water management issues in the region.

Top of the agenda were preparations for the 2025 flood season across the Balkhash-Alakol Basin and the regulation and allocation of land plots within vital water protection zones.

The meeting gathered an authoritative group of participants, including members of the Basin Council, Acting Chair of the Committee for Regulation, Protection and Use of Water Resources G.S. Imasheva, Deputy Mayor of Almaty N.K. Kudaibergenov, local council leaders, and department heads.

By the meeting's closure, a clear course of action was charted: all decisions and minutes were shared with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, relevant water authorities, local governments, and owners of hydraulic infrastructure to ensure smooth coordination moving forward.

The Council extended heartfelt thanks to GIZ for its continued support and commitment to strengthening government capacity in sustainable water management.



SECOND MEETING OF THE SYR DARYA RIVER BASIN DIALOGUE

On January 22, 2025, Tashkent welcomed participants from across the region for the Second Meeting of the Syr Darya River Basin Dialogue – an important step forward in transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia.

The event brought together key stakeholders to continue the dialogue on sustainable water management in the Syr Darya River Basin.

The meeting was attended by authorized representatives appointed from each Central Asian country (representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Central Asia, relevant sectoral ministries, Hydrological Services), as well as representatives of the programme's international partners.



“Collaboration on shared water resources like the Syr Darya River is vital for regional stability and sustainable development. The EU is proud to contribute to this initiative, which not only fosters dialogue but also builds resilience to climate change, improves infrastructure, and strengthens regional cooperation. Together, we are working to ensure that water becomes a unifying force for the region,” said **Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan.**

“Water knows no borders. Cooperation among the countries along the Syr Darya is crucial to ensure the equitable and sustainable use of this precious resource, particularly in the light of climate change. Switzerland is glad to support the Central Asian countries in this endeavor jointly with Germany and the EU” – noted **Ms. Lisa Marina Gampp, Regional Water and Climate Change Advisor, Program Manager Regional Water Infrastructure and Climate Change, Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan.**

“Our programme supports regional cooperation in water resources management at the level of the two basins of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers through dialogue at all governance levels. 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, Manager of Regional Programme GIZ “Climate Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia”.**



During the dialogue, participants discussed a range of critical topics aimed at strengthening cooperation and advancing sustainable water management in the Syr Darya River Basin. Key issues on the agenda included:

- Boosting regional cooperation through the development of modern monitoring and planning tools aligned with Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles, all in coordination with national authorities and with climate impacts in mind;
- Presentation and in-depth discussion of pilot projects initiated by national partners under the joint GIZ–SDC–EU water management programme;



- Facilitating the exchange of best practices and exploring ways to enhance both the water management system and supporting infrastructure across the basin;
- Exploring joint initiatives within the agreed priority area of “Enhancing climate change resilience” – including proposals for new infrastructure using a Nexus approach and modernizing river flow monitoring and forecasting;
- Planning for the International Day of the Syr Darya River 2025, including discussion of the event’s concept and potential activities to raise awareness and promote regional cooperation.

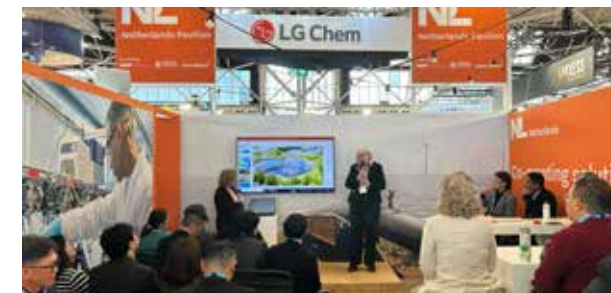
STUDY TOUR TO THE NETHERLANDS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES OF WATER RESOURCES OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

From March 10 to 14, 2025, a delegation of representatives from Central Asian water resources ministries took part in a dynamic study tour to the Netherlands, gaining first-hand insight into cutting-edge water management practices and technologies.

The visit kicked off in Amsterdam at the renowned Aquatech exhibition, where participants explored the latest innovations in water management – ranging from smart digital solutions to infrastructure advancements. Delegates also networked with companies and research institutions featured in the Dutch, Finnish, and Bavarian pavilions.

In The Hague, the delegation held high-level meetings with representatives from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Surge Support (DRRS) programme, and the Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO). The tour continued in Delft, where participants visited the world-renowned Deltares Research Institute. There, they were introduced to Deltares’ groundbreaking work, including an upcoming project in Central Asia and toured its modern water laboratory.

By the end of the tour, several companies had been identified as promising partners for future collaboration. Notably, the delegation expressed a strong interest in deepening ties with Deltares and praised the rapid deployment of Dutch DRRS experts during Kazakhstan’s 2024 floods.



The study tour was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Central Asia under the European Union’s “EU4SustainableCentralAsia” project. Implemented by GIZ, this action is part of the broader Team Europe Initiative (TEI), involving the EU Commission, EBRD, EIB, and EU Member States including Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, and the Slovak Republic.



OFFICIAL HANDOVER CEREMONY OF EQUIPMENT FOR BASIN IRRIGATION SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIONS



On 18 March 2025 in Tashkent, in the building of the Inspectorate for Control over Safety of Water Management Facilities and Water Use under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan (GOSVODHOZNADZOR), an official handover ceremony of equipment for BISAs (Basin Irrigation System Administrations) was held.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Birodarjon Burkhondjonov Deputy Director of the Agency for Operation of Water Management Facilities under the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, highlighted the importance of international partnerships in modernizing water infrastructure and improving irrigation efficiency in the face of climate change.



This equipment handover reflects a shared commitment to enhancing sustainable water management and supporting local water institutions with the tools they need to operate more effectively.

“ These computers and printers will improve working conditions, increase the accuracy of data collection and provide access to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) courses we have developed with European universities in the framework of the programme, ” noted **Dr Caroline Milow, GIZ Project Manager.**

“ Switzerland is committed to strengthening effective, efficient, and sustainable integrated water resources management at all levels – local, national, and regional. By strengthening digitalization and technical capacity at the Basin Irrigation System Administrations, we are enhancing data-driven decision-making, fostering transboundary water cooperation, and supporting equitable access to water resources. This initiative contributes to climate adaptation and resilience by ensuring that water management is informed by robust climate data, benefiting communities and sectors that rely on sustainable and secure water access ”
underlined **Mr. Andrin Fink, Deputy Head of Mission / Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan.**

The procured equipment will enable BISAs to fulfil all necessary tasks in a timely manner and will improve the process of digitalisation in the water sector.



For reference:

Technical capacity building on climate-smart IWRM for regional and national river basin organisations is ongoing in the framework of the Regional Programme ‘Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia’. In order to assess the needs and technical capacity of regional and national basin organisations, a questionnaire was developed to identify the needs of the Basin Irrigation System Administrations (BISA) of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as in the other Central Asian countries.

From February to March 2024, programme specialists visited 12 Basin Irrigation Administrations of all regions of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Karakalpakstan to discuss their technical capacity building needs and collect completed questionnaires.

Based on the completed questionnaires of the second component of the above-mentioned project, an assessment of the needs and technical capacity of the basin irrigation system administrations was developed. Three desktop computers, two laptops and two printers were purchased for each BISA, including the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.





RESEARCH STAY OF WATER SPECIALISTS FROM THE CENTRAL ASIAN UNIVERSITIES AT MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG



From February 24 to March 14, 2025, specialists from Central Asian universities took part in a dynamic research stay at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) in Germany.

With main goal to strengthen regional capacity in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through collaboration on the development of a comprehensive IWRM handbook and an associated certification course.

Over the three-week stay, participants engaged in a wide range of activities – including excursions, hands-on training, and interactive workshops – while gaining first-hand exposure to Germany's advanced water management systems. A highlight of the programme was the development of an educational simulation game, designed to make IWRM training more practical and engaging.

Working side-by-side with MLU experts, the Central Asian specialists tailored the IWRM handbook to reflect regional realities and integrated modern, participatory teaching methods. Discussions with German professionals and field visits provided additional perspectives on sustainable, cross-sectoral water management practices.

The programme offered more than just a research stay; it served as a vibrant platform for cross-border cooperation and innovation. It enabled participants to exchange ideas and develop forward-looking solutions to shared water management challenges across Central Asia.



SUPPORTING AN INTEGRATED AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS IN THE KAFIRNIGAN BASIN

On April 24, 2025, Dushanbe hosted the first meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) formed to guide the development of the River Basin Water Resources Management Plan (RBWRP) for the Kafirnigan Basin Zone for the period 2026–2030.

This milestone event marked the launch of an integrated and collaborative planning process for one of Tajikistan's most strategically significant river basins. It sets the foundation for long-term, sustainable water management that balances environmental protection, water security, and regional cooperation.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jamshed Shodi Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders – including representatives from the Secretariat of the National Development Council under the President of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, water and environmental authorities, research institutions, international organisations, and basin-level actors.

The discussions focused on key topics such as the sustainable use of water, adapting to climate change,





ensuring water security and protecting aquatic ecosystems. Participants also emphasised the importance of strengthening institutional coordination and cooperation between countries and stakeholders within the Kafirnigan River Basin.



STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP: GIZ AND ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT OF UZBEKISTAN STRENGTHEN TIES ON WORLD WATER DAY

On March 18, 2025, Dr. Caroline Milow, GIZ Programme Manager, took part in World Water Day celebrations hosted by the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers of the National Research University, in cooperation with the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

Held under the global theme of sustainable water use and conservation, the event brought together students, researchers, and environmental advocates to spotlight the crucial role of water in achieving environmental and climate resilience.

In the margins of the celebrations, Dr. Milow and Mr. Saidrasul Sanginov, Deputy Executive Chairman of the Central Council of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation between GIZ's regional water programmes and the Ecological Movement.

The MoU paves the way for joint research, public awareness campaigns, and national and regional events, including the upcoming International Amudarya and Syrdarya River Days – all supported by the GIZ programme “Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia.”

This new partnership aims to build greater public engagement and knowledge sharing on water-related challenges and opportunities in Uzbekistan and the broader Central Asian region.





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