

Green Central Asia – BI-Weekly Press Review featuring the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan

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Climate Change and Environment

Turkmenistan fulfills all its environmental protection obligations 31/01/2025

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan between Deputy

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Myakhri Byashimova and the Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), Zafar Makhmudov, reports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (<https://turkmenistaninfo.gov>).

Read more: [here](#)

EU allocates €8.8 million grant to Uzbekistan for land restoration in the Aral Sea Basin 02/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — The European Union (EU) is set to launch an environmental project in Uzbekistan in 2025 aimed at restoring degraded lands in the lower Aral Sea basin.

This project is part of the EU's "Green Central Asia" program, which seeks to address water resource, energy, and climate change challenges in the region.

Read more: [here](#)

Glacier melting in Tajikistan increasing natural disasters in the country 03/02/2025

An article published by *CABAR.asia* [says](#) that at the local level, saving glaciers is difficult since the primary cause is global greenhouse gas emissions, scientists say. Over the past 70 years, temperatures in the mountains of Tajikistan have risen by 1.5°C. This warming has led to frequent natural disasters—glaciers are gradually melting, forming numerous lakes on the surface, which can break through at any moment, triggering landslides and flooding villages at the foot of the mountains.

Read more: [here](#)

World Wetlands Day 2025: Restoration and Protection of Ecosystems 04/02/2025

On February 2, 2025, the world celebrates World Wetlands Day, highlighting the crucial role of these ecosystems in preserving biodiversity, maintaining water balance, and mitigating climate change.

The theme for 2025 – **“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”** – emphasizes the need for protecting and restoring these vulnerable natural areas.

Wetlands play a key role in ensuring water security, reducing flood risks, and providing habitats for diverse flora and fauna. However, **more than 35% of wetlands have disappeared in the last 50 years**, making their restoration a priority for sustainable

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development.

Read more: [here](#)

The Central Asian Conference on Climate Change will be held in Ashgabat 05/02/2025

The Central Asian Conference on Climate Change (CACCC-2025) is scheduled to take place in Ashgabat from May 13 to 15 of this year. It is expected that representatives of relevant government structures, international organizations, and experts from Central Asian countries will participate in the event to discuss issues related to advancing climate actions in the region.

Read more: [here](#)

UNDP and British Embassy in Turkmenistan Convene Eighth Climate Group Meeting 05/02/2025

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the British Embassy in Turkmenistan co-hosted the eighth Coordination Meeting of the Development Partners Climate Group on 5 February 2025 at the UN Building in Ashgabat, aiming to accelerate Turkmenistan's progress in meeting its international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan submits first Greenhouse gas emissions report to UN 05/02/2025

Tajikistan has fulfilled its international commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement by submitting its first biennial report on greenhouse gas emissions accounting for 1990-2022, *Asiaplus.tj* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Climate conditions in Tajikistan led to sharp decline in cotton harvest 07/02/2025

Tajikistan's 2024 cotton harvest was significantly lower than expected - about half of the planned volume, *Sputnik Tajikistan* reports.

The country had aimed to harvest over 434,000 tons of raw cotton, but in the end, only 253,300 tons were collected, which is just 58.2% of the planned amount. The results were

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disappointing even compared to 2024, when 344,300 tons were harvested, according to data from Tajikistan's Ministry of Agriculture.

Read more: [here](#)

Multisectoral dialogues on climate change adaptation have been completed in Turkmenistan 09/02/2025

Turkmenistan has completed a series of dialogues on climate change adaptation. The discussions took place within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Green Climate Fund (GCF) project "Development of the national Adaptation Planning Process in Turkmenistan", jointly with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan.

Read more: [here](#)

Nature reserves of Turkmenistan: the unique value of Khazar 10/02/2025

The wetlands in the southeastern part of the Caspian Sea, which are part of Turkmenistan's Khazar State Nature Reserve, are traditional wintering grounds for hundreds of bird species, including rare ones, *Turkmenportal.tm* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

In Uzbekistan, the Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy is underway 10/02/2025

On February 7, 2025, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree "On the State Program for the Implementation of the "Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy in the Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy". The decree outlines a number of priority directions for the country's development, related to improving the ecological appearance of neighborhoods, increasing the level of street greening, creating an ecologically clean and comfortable living environment, strengthening public health, forming an ecological way of life, and creating conditions for the realization of human potential.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan to introduce mandatory environmental damage insurance system 11/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — Uzbekistan plans to introduce environmental incentives for enterprises and a mandatory environmental damage insurance system.

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These measures are outlined in the presidential decree of 7 February as part of the 2025 state program.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan to halt launch of environmentally hazardous industries from 1 May 11/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — The launch of new enterprises posing environmental risks will be suspended in major cities of Uzbekistan starting from 1 May, according to a presidential decree issued as part of the State Program for 2025.

Read more: [here](#)

Water resources

Turkmenistan. «Drops of the Future». Role of Youth. Water – Food – Energy Nexus 31/01/2025

"Issues of water, energy, and food balance are among the most pressing in the region, where resources are limited, and challenges are complex. It is crucial to find a compromise between meeting population needs, preserving ecosystems, and ensuring sustainable development," stated **Zafar Makhmudov**, the Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) at the youth seminar "Drops of the Future" in Ashgabat.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan launches climate-resilient water management project 01/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — On 31 January 2025, Tashkent hosted the official launch of the project "Climate-Resilient Integrated Water Resources Management of the Zarafshan River Basin." The initiative is supported by the Swiss government in collaboration with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change, as well as the Swiss Embassy.

Read more: [here](#)

88th meeting of ICWC in Dushanbe: what was discussed and what decisions were made 02/02/2025

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The use of limits and operating modes of reservoirs for the inter-vegetation period of 2024-2025 in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya river basins was considered at the 88th meeting of the Interstate Coordination Water Management Commission (ICWC), held on January 29, 2025, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more: [here](#)

In the spring, Kazakhstan to receive 11 bln cub m of water from neighboring Central Asian countries 03/02/2025

Kazakhstan will receive 11 billion cubic meters of water by April 2025. This was agreed upon by the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nurzhan Nurzhigitov, the press service of the Government of Kazakhstan reported.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan to send 16bn cubic meters of irrigation water to Kazakhstan in 2025 05/02/2025

This marks increase by 1 billion cubic meters from 15 billion cubic meters of irrigation water Uzbekistan sent to Kazakhstan last year, Kazinform News Agency reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Kyrgyzstan has begun the process of developing a Basin Plan for the Chu River 06/02/2025

On 6 February 2025, Bishkek hosted a meeting to review the project “Water Use Permit System in the Kyrgyz Republic” implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry.

The project is being implemented by the International Office for Water (OiEau) with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Subcontractors for the basin plan development process are Hydrosolition GmbH (Switzerland) and the Branch of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Read more: [here](#)

National Water Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period until 2040 introduced in Dushanbe 06/02/2025

DUSHANBE, 06.02.2025 /NIAT «Khovar»/. «The National Water Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2040», including its Action Plan for 2025-2027 introduced at a joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources

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Management and the Coordinating Working Group on the Implementation of the Water Sector Reform Program of the Republic of Tajikistan, Khovar reports, citing the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan co-chairs the First Meeting of the Group of Friends on Water in 2025 07/02/2025

DUSHANBE, 07.02.2025 (NIAT Khovar) – On 5 February 2025, under the co-chair of the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan and the Permanent Mission of Singapore, the first meeting of the Group of Friends of Water was convened with the participation of Retno Marsudi, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water.

Read more: [here](#)

The issues of Vorukh road and water facilities are still under discussion, says top Tajik diplomat 12/02/2025

Although the state border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan has been fully delineated, two pressing issues—the road and water facilities, which have previously been sources of conflict—remain under discussion, Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sirojiddin Muhridin, stated at a news conference in Dushanbe on February 11.

Read more: [here](#)

Regional seminar on transboundary water cooperation for Central Asian countries 12/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — On 12–13 February, a regional seminar is taking place in Central Asia to discuss Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 6.5.2 and the use of reporting as a tool to strengthen transboundary water cooperation.

Read more: [here](#)

Turkmenistan, Iran step up cooperation in energy, security and water management 13/02/2025

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan is on a visit to Tehran, during which he held meetings with his counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi, with the Ministers of Energy of Iran Abbas Aliabadi and Oil Mohsen Paknejad, as well as with President Masoud Pezeshkian, *Ritmeurasia.ru* reports.

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Read more: [here](#)

Energy sector

Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan: gas supplies in the multifaceted agenda of cooperation 31/01/2025

According to Uzbek media reports, in 2024, Uzbekistan maintained its status as a net importer of gas, increasing its gas imports 2.4 times compared to 2023. According to the national Statistics Agency, the total volume of imports from Turkmenistan and Russia amounted to 1.67 billion dollars.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan presents arguments for country's energy security capabilities 31/01/2025

Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Daler Juma, presented five arguments supporting President Emomali Rahmon's statement that the country will achieve energy independence within the next 2.5 years, *Asiaplus.tj* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan begin to create Central Asian energy alliance 13/02/2025

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan intend to conclude a new intergovernmental agreement in the field of energy, which will provide for the supply of electricity from the Rogun hydroelectric power station to Kazakhstan.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan expects \$500 mln investment in Rogun HPP from ADB 14/02/2024

Issues of expanding cooperation, particularly attracting additional investments in Tajikistan's key infrastructure projects, were discussed in Dushanbe by Tajikistan's Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Zavkizoda Zavki Amin, and the head of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Representative Office in Dushanbe, Ko Sakamoto, *Avesta* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Afghanistan's multilateral relationship with CA countries

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Uzbekistan and Afghanistan sign agreements worth US\$4.5 Million 03/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — Business circles of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have signed trade agreements worth US\$4.5 million, according to Tasnim.

The Taliban Ministry of Industry and Trade reported that representatives of the private sectors of both countries signed contracts totaling US\$4.5 million.

Read more: [here](#)

EU envoy and Tajik FM discuss Afghanistan 04/02/2025

The European Union's Special Representative for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson on Monday met with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin to discuss the current situation in the country, *Ariananews.af* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Construction of the Trans-Afghan railway set to begin in 2025 04/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — The construction of the Trans-Afghan railway, which will connect Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, is scheduled to begin in 2025, Uzbekistan's Minister of Transport Ilkhom Makhkamov announced in an interview with Uzbekistan 24 TV channel.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan confirms commitment to supporting stability in Afghanistan 04/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — First Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Bakhramjon A'loev held a meeting with the head of the Afghan diplomatic mission, Abdul Ghaffar Terawi.

During the meeting, the parties engaged in a detailed exchange of views on the current situation in Afghanistan and ways to achieve long-term peace and stability.

Read more: [here](#)

Dushanbe hosts the 6th Meeting of the Special Envoys of Central Asian States and the EU for Afghanistan 05/02/2025

DUSHANBE, 03.02.2025 /NIAT "Khovar"/. On February 5, 2025, the 6th Meeting of the Special Representatives and Envoys of Central Asian States and the EU for Afghanistan

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was held in Dushanbe.

According to the Tajik MFA Information Department, the participants in the meeting exchanged views on the socio-economic and political developments in Afghanistan since the last meeting in February 2024, as well as on the approaches of the Central Asian countries and the EU to assisting Afghanistan

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan and Switzerland discuss the situation in Afghanistan and cooperation on water resources 05/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — On 3 February, a meeting was held between the Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan, Ismatulla Irgashev, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to Uzbekistan, Konstantin Obolensky.

Read more: [here](#)

UN to provide cash aid to 1 mln vulnerable families in Afghanistan in 2025 06/02/2025

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has announced that it will provide cash assistance to one million vulnerable families in Afghanistan in 2025, *Khaama.com* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan and Afghanistan discuss ways to increase trade and investment 06/02/2025

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) — From 1 to 3 February, a business mission led by the working group of the Ministry of Investments, Industry, and Trade visited Afghanistan.

Read more: [here](#)

Taliban Responds To CSTO, Calls For Increased Budget To Combat Drug Trafficking 11/02/2025

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesperson, has responded to recent remarks by the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), regarding terrorist threats and drug trafficking originating from Afghanistan, *Afintl.af* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

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A meeting was held with the head of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) regional office in Herat 13/02/2025

On February 11, 2025, a meeting was held at the Consulate General between Bayramgul Garabayeva, Head of the Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Herat Province, Afghanistan, and Consul General Batyr Yolov.

Read more: [here](#)

Afghanistan's Instability Affects Neighbouring Countries, Warns Russian FM 14/02/2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has expressed concerns over Afghanistan's deteriorating security situation, warning that instability in the country poses risks for its neighbours.

Speaking on Thursday during a meeting in Moscow with Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin, Lavrov stated that the fragile security situation in Afghanistan has repercussions for neighbouring states, particularly Russia and Tajikistan.

Read more: [here](#)

Uzbekistan to continue supplying electricity to Afghanistan in 2025 14/02/2025

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the company responsible for Afghanistan's power supply, and Uzbekistan's National Electric Networks have signed an agreement for electricity supplies in 2025. The Afghan company emphasized that this agreement is an important step toward strengthening energy cooperation between the two countries, reports *Daryo.uz*.

Read more: [here](#)

Cooperation between Central Asian countries

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan increase customs border crossing capacity 04/02/2025

During a videoconference between the customs services of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, a decision was made to further increase the capacity of the "Farap Avtoyollary-Alat" border crossing point. The parties agreed on joint measures to optimize

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customs procedures and exchange experiences.

Read more: [here](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan met with the President of Kazakhstan 04/02/2025

On February 4, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov met with the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in Astana.

Tokayev congratulated on the beginning of the International Year of Peace and Trust initiated by Ashgabat, which coincides with the 30th anniversary of the country's neutrality, and expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to continue to provide all-round support in the implementation of Turkmenistan's peacekeeping initiatives.

Read more: [here](#)

Expert dialogue with ambassadors of Central Asian countries on cooperation held in Islamabad 07/02/2025

Aroundtable discussion titled "Ambassadorial Dialogue on Regional Cooperation" was held on February 6 at the Islamabad Institute of Regional Studies (IRSI) in Pakistan.

Read more: [here](#)

Tajikistan, Kazakhstan FMs discuss enhancing bilateral cooperation 12/02/2025

DUSHANBE, 12.02.2025 /NIAT "Khovar"/. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin and the Deputy Prime Minister — Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu held talks in Astana. The meeting was held in a narrow and extended format reports Khovar citing Foreign Ministry of Tajikistan.

Read more: [here](#)

"Culture brings our peoples closer" - ambassador of Tajikistan on cooperation with Turkmenistan 12/02/2025

Tajikistan and Turkmenistan continue to strengthen cultural ties, building on centuries-old traditions of friendship and humanism. In 2024, cooperation between the two countries gained special momentum within the framework of the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great Turkmen poet and thinker, Magtymguly Fragi. As

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noted in an article by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to Turkmenistan, Niyatbekzoda Vafo Alibek, published in the newspaper "Neutral Turkmenistan", Tajikistan actively supported Turkmenistan's initiative by participating in a number of large-scale events.

Read more: [here](#)

Kazakh leader notes steady positive dynamics in relations between Kazakhstan and Tajikistan 12/02/2025

On February 12, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, met in Astana with the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

The Tajik MFA information department [says](#) that at the beginning of the meeting, the top Tajik diplomat conveyed warm wishes from the **President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon**, to the President of Kazakhstan.

Read more: [here](#)

Issue of state border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan come up against two acute problems 12/02/2025

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are close to signing a border agreement, but two critical issues remain unresolved, Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin stated during a press conference, *Eurasiatoday.ru* reports.

Read more: [here](#)

First EU-Central Asia summit to take place in April 13/02/2025

European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will visit Uzbekistan on April 3-4 to attend the first EU-Central Asia summit, the press service of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan reported

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