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Green Central Asia

Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “GLOBAL MOUNTAIN DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” HELD IN BISHKEK



On 24–25 April, Bishkek hosted the International Conference “Global Mountain Dialogue for Sustainable Development”, bringing together over 200 delegates from 50 countries and around 30 international and regional organizations.

The event took place within the framework of the Five-Year Action Plan for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2025), launched by the UN General Assembly. It was organized by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in partnership with several international organizations.

Participants discussed the most pressing challenges facing mountain regions today, including:

- climate change
- ecosystem degradation
- water, food, and energy security

The conference became an important milestone on the road to the upcoming global summit “Bishkek+25”, scheduled for 2027, and provided a platform for developing joint initiatives to promote the sustainable development of mountain areas.

SPOTLIGHT ON METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION AT CACCC-2025 IN ASHGABAT



On 13–14 May, the 7th Central Asian Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2025) in Ashgabat highlighted the urgent need to reduce methane emissions – one of the most powerful greenhouse gases. A dedicated session explored the role of the Global Methane Pledge in advancing regional climate strategies and promoted the exchange of practical measures and policy approaches for methane mitigation, essential to achieving short-term climate goals.

The session featured contributions from the project “EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028”. The project team shared insights from a pilot initiative introducing Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) technologies in the natural gas sector, as well as international best practices, early research results, and efforts to expand renewable energy solutions in Turkmenistan.



The discussion was co-moderated by Dr. Caroline Milow, Programme Manager, GIZ, and James Turitto, Director of Global Campaigns for Methane Pollution Prevention at the Clean Air Task Force. Both emphasized the urgency of joint action and international cooperation to curb methane emissions in the region.

The session aimed to foster dialogue among government authorities, industry leaders, and international partners, with a focus on strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing technical assistance, and ensuring transparent implementation of climate commitments across Central Asia.



BISHKEK HOSTED SEMINAR ON CLIMATE RISKS IN TAILINGS MANAGEMENT

On 21–22 May 2025, Bishkek hosted a Subregional Seminar on Climate Risks in Tailings Management in Central Asia, organized jointly with UNECE, ESCAP, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the United Nations Development Account (UNDA).

The event brought together around 50 participants, including representatives of national authorities from Central Asian countries as well as international and regional organizations. Participation was offered both in-person and online, ensuring broad engagement.

The seminar focused on strengthening regional capacity to assess and manage climate-related risks at tailings facilities. Discussions covered:

- international guidelines and policy tools,
- methodologies for risk assessment,
- practical approaches to improving the safety and climate resilience of tailings sites.

This dialogue marked an important step toward enhancing cooperation and promoting sustainable and safe management of mining-related facilities across Central Asia.



GLACIER PRESERVATION MONTH-2025' IN TAJIKISTAN



On the eve of the High-Level International Conference on Glacier Preservation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan successfully concluded the environmental initiative “Glacier Preservation Month–2025.” The campaign was organized by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan with support from the GIZ programme “Green Central Asia, phase II.” It aimed to raise awareness of the urgent need to protect glaciers – one of the world’s most vulnerable natural resources.

Throughout the month, a wide range of events engaged citizens nationwide, including:

- thematic podcasts and radio broadcasts on national stations,
- an online quiz with over 100 participants,
- photo exhibitions and information campaigns,
- the children’s drawing contest “Glacier Preservation – Our Future”, featuring young artists.

The strong participation confirmed the growing public concern about glacier melting and a collective willingness to act. Organizers expressed gratitude to all contributors – volunteers, experts, schoolchildren, students, scientists.



MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES: TURKMENISTAN DELEGATION VISITS UZBEKISTAN

On 20–25 May 2025, a Turkmen delegation carried out a study tour to the Republic of Uzbekistan (Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent) as part of the large-scale project “EU for Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028”.

The visit served as a key preparatory step for launching an innovative pilot project in Mary, Turkmenistan, focusing on the treatment of drainage water using microalgae and the installation of solar-powered water pumping systems.

The main objective was an in-depth exchange of experience with leading Uzbek scientific institutions specializing in microalgae research and its application in agriculture and water management. The acquired knowledge will be applied to enhance water resource efficiency and advance renewable energy solutions in Turkmenistan.

“This study tour is not just an exchange of information; it’s an investment in Turkmenistan’s sustainable future and the practical implementation of advanced environmentally friendly technologies,” emphasized a representative of the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan. “Learning from the successful experience of our Uzbek colleagues in water bioremediation and solar energy will allow us to implement the Mary pilot project as effectively as possible and contribute to the development of a green economy and environmental security in our country.”



The delegation, including experts from the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and the Research and Production Center for Renewable Energy of the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan, visited:

- the Karakalpak Branch of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan,
- the Youth Technopark in Nukus,
- the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Region.



For reference:

The pilot project in Mary, launched based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 14, 2024, between the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, the State Concern “Turkmengas,” and GIZ, aims to create conditions for sustainable development and environmental security. Innovative methods for drainage water treatment using microalgae and the application of solar energy for water pumping systems are a significant step towards implementing green economy principles and increasing the efficiency of water resource use.

They also explored progress in drainage water purification, climate change adaptation, and the production and use of solar panels in Uzbekistan’s universities and industrial enterprises.

The visit strengthened regional cooperation and laid the groundwork for introducing innovative, environmentally friendly solutions in Turkmenistan’s water and energy sectors.

JOINT VISION FOR GLACIER MONITORING IN CENTRAL ASIA



On 29 May 2025, Dushanbe hosted the Regional Forum on Glacier and Cryosphere Monitoring in Central Asia, organized by the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Committee for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, with support from the GIZ “Green Central Asia, Phase II” programme and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The event brought together over 150 participants, including representatives of international organizations, regional hydrometeorological services, glaciological research institutes, academic institutions, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other international agencies.



The Forum’s main goal was to strengthen the regional response to glacier retreat and cryospheric changes driven by climate change, while promoting technical dialogue, scientific exchange, and institutional cooperation.

A key outcome was the presentation and adoption of a draft Declaration, reflecting a shared vision and commitment to coordinated action. The Declaration outlined six priority areas:

- Strengthening monitoring and modeling of cryospheric changes
- Advancing regional research and scientific collaboration

- Enhancing institutional frameworks and coordination
- Developing regional and international partnerships
- Attracting investment in infrastructure and technology
- Promoting education and public awareness

The Agency for Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan proposed the creation of a Regional Glaciology Center in Dushanbe to serve as a hub for regional expertise and cooperation.

Participants also agreed on a set of follow-up actions to enhance the region’s collective response to the challenges posed by glacier retreat and cryospheric transformations.

- Advancing regional research and scientific collaboration
- Enhancing institutional frameworks and coordination
- Developing regional and international partnerships
- Attracting investment in infrastructure and technology
- Promoting education and awareness





EUROFEST 2025: CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

On 1 June 2025, Astana hosted EuroFest 2025, the annual celebration of Europe Day, which this year coincided with International Children’s Day. The festival highlighted cultural exchange, showcasing the traditions, cuisine, and crafts of EU countries. Visitors enjoyed a lively program featuring a European marketplace, gastronomy, live performances, and interactive entertainment for the whole family. All proceeds from the event will be directed to local charitable organizations.

As part of the festival, a joint booth was presented by two GIZ-implemented projects under the initiative “European Union for Sustainable Central Asia.” Here, visitors learned more about project activities supporting sustainability and climate action in the region.

For children, the booth featured an interactive game focused on:

- climate change
- water resource management
- carbon footprints
- eco-friendly solutions

Young participants eagerly shared their own “green habits” – from saving water and electricity to sorting waste and choosing sustainable transport.



Parents also joined the fun, taking part in contests, with winners receiving prizes and certificates.

EuroFest 2025 once again proved to be not only a celebration of cultural diversity but also a platform for raising awareness on sustainable development and environmental responsibility.



For reference:

The project “European Union for Sustainable Central Asia: Joint Actions and Cooperation on Water, Energy, and Climate Change” is part of the “Green Central Asia” initiative. The project aims to support sustainable development and green transformation in Central Asia’s water and energy sectors. It focuses on enhancing regional cooperation and governance for sustainable development, improving coordination among members of the “Team Europe” initiative (TEI), and providing expert and analytical support to regional partners.

The “Team Europe” initiative is part of the European strategy Global Gateway, which addresses major challenges in the region.

Global Gateway is a European initiative for developing sustainable infrastructure and strengthening connectivity in the areas of digitalization, energy, transport, healthcare, education, and scientific research around the world.





EU METHANE REGULATION PRESENTED AT JOINT WORKSHOP IN ASHGABAT

On 4 June 2025, Ashgabat hosted a hybrid workshop introducing the new EU Methane Regulation (2024/1787), adopted on 13 June 2024, which sets ambitious requirements to reduce methane emissions in the energy sector.

The workshop served as a key platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange between the EU and Turkmenistan on climate policy, focusing on mitigating climate impacts and strengthening environmental protection.

Highlights of the workshop included:

- Presentation of the EU Methane Regulation (2024/1787), setting requirements for monitoring, reporting, verification, and mitigation of methane emissions.
- Introduction of the OGMP 2.0 (Oil and Gas Methane Partnership Initiative), UNEP's flagship program that underpins the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO), a global emissions database.
- Demonstrations of satellite-based monitoring technologies, including:
- IMEO-MARS (Methane Emissions Alert and Response System),
- GHGSat infrared satellites, capable of detecting major methane leaks worldwide.

The event reaffirmed the EU's commitment to sharing best practices, promoting international cooperation, and supporting emission reductions well beyond its borders.



TOWARDS 'GREEN' DEVELOPMENT: TURKMENISTAN DELEGATION VISITED GERMANY

From 23 to 28 June 2025, a Turkmen delegation undertook a study tour to Germany as part of the project "EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028." The delegation included representatives from the Ministries of Education and Energy and the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan.

The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation in science and education and to exchange knowledge and experience with German partners. Discussions were held on the key elements of a future Memorandum of Understanding

with leading German universities, including Clausthal Technical University and Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, focusing on expanding collaboration in scientific research.

Highlights of the visit included:

- A meeting with the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) on strategies for international energy cooperation, emphasizing energy security, sustainable development, and mutually beneficial bilateral relations.





- Discussions with the German Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie) on the potential of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency measures, and the introduction of modern technologies into the energy system.
- A visit to the Weinberg Campus Technology Park, showcasing advanced research laboratories, demonstration facilities, and start-up platforms.
- A meeting at the German Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Space (BMFTR) on state policies in higher education, research funding for energy and environmental

technologies, and academic exchange programmes.

- A visit to the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Berlin, where the delegation met with Ambassador Berdymurad Rejepov to discuss current and future cooperation in energy, science, and education, as well as strengthening Turkmenistan's international presence in Europe.

The visit underscored Turkmenistan's commitment to advancing green development and fostering long-term partnerships with Germany in areas crucial to a sustainable future.



COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND ENERGY RESOURCES IN CENTRAL ASIA

On 10 July 2025, Astana hosted the 4th Meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) on a Mutually Beneficial Water-Energy Mechanism, bringing together representatives from Central Asian countries, regional institutions, and international development partners. The RWG meetings have become a key dialogue platform for advancing sustainable water and energy management across the region.

Organized in collaboration with the OECD Water, Energy and Land-use Nexus project, the meeting built on previous discussions – notably the 3rd RWG meeting in Tashkent in December 2024 – to address interconnected challenges and opportunities in the water and energy sectors.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from Mr. Aslan Abdraimov, Vice Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Ullrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission and Economic Counsellor, German Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Key sessions included:

- Water-Energy Modelling: Updates from experts on regional models supporting cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation, with contributions from SIC ICWC, the World Bank (CAWEP), UNECE, and ADB (CAREC Water Pillar).





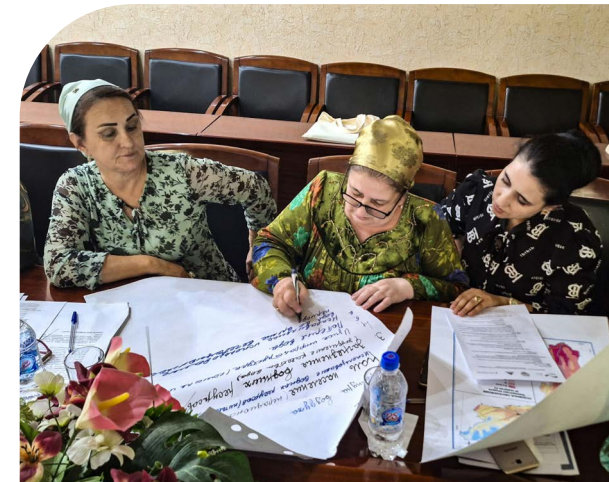
- Environmental Integrity: Presentations from GIZ, the Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan (Blue Peace Central Asia Project), and SIC ICWC on ecological flows, biodiversity protection, and environmental sustainability.
- Afghanistan Session: Updates on developments relevant to the water-energy-land nexus, led by Ms. Charity Watson, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.
- Institutional Arrangements: Discussions on strengthening national and regional institutions, with inputs from EC IFAS, SIC ICWC, UNECE, and GIZ on nexus governance analysis and renewable energy projects.



The meeting concluded with an open discussion on key takeaways and expectations for the upcoming 5th RWG meeting. Closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Caroline Milow, Programme Manager of Green Central Asia (GIZ Germany), and Mr. Takayoshi Kato, Economist at the OECD.

The 4th RWG meeting reaffirmed the growing recognition in Central Asia of the multidimensional benefits of coordinated water and energy management – from economic efficiency to environmental sustainability, social well-being, and regional stability – especially in the face of climate change.

TRAINING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE KAFIRNIGAN RIVER BASIN



On 8 July 2025, Dushanbe hosted a one-day training on climate change adaptation in the Kafirnigan River Basin, aimed at strengthening the resilience of the region's water resources to climate-related challenges.

The event brought together 25 participants, including members of the Basin Women's Forum, representatives of local communities, water management authorities, the agricultural sector, and research institutions.

Key themes of the training included:

- methods for assessing climate risks,
- adaptation measures in the water and agricultural sectors,



- nature-based solutions for sustainable water management.

Special emphasis was placed on integrating local knowledge and community needs into adaptation strategies, which is particularly crucial for transboundary rivers such as the Kafirnigan.

The Basin Women's Forum played a central role in organizing the training, highlighting the importance of women's participation in water resource management and climate adaptation. The active engagement of women from both rural and urban communities enriched the discussions and contributed to stronger cross-sectoral cooperation.

UZBEKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

This initiative marked an important step toward building a more inclusive and resilient approach to climate risk management in the Kafirnigan River Basin.

On 17–18 July 2025, Tashkent hosted a training seminar for representatives from Kazakhstan at the premises of Uzbekhydrogeology, organized under the EU4SustainableCentralAsia project. The event focused on the establishment of a situational center and the exchange of experience in groundwater management.

The Kazakh delegation included staff from the Ministry of Water Resources and Kazhydrogeology. Participants were introduced to digital monitoring tools currently used in Uzbekistan and discussed their potential adaptation for Kazakhstan’s needs.

“This meeting was only made possible thanks to the cooperation between the two countries, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by Kazhydrogeology and UzHydromet in January this year is a clear example of regional cooperation in the field of groundwater,” emphasized Dr. Carolina Milow, Programme Manager.

Looking ahead, in August 2025, with support from the regional project “Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia,” the WaterBase information system will be officially handed over to the Kazakh side for practical use.



FIRST DRAFT OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH STRATEGY ON THE BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

This initiative further strengthens regional collaboration in groundwater management, promoting sustainable use of shared water resources in Central Asia.

On 18 July 2025, Ashgabat hosted the Second Round Table dedicated to finalizing the first draft of the Public Outreach Strategy on the Benefits of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency.

The Round Table brought together a wide range of participants, including representatives of national ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan, the Delegation of the European Union to Turkmenistan, and other EU-funded projects such as “Sustainable Energy Linkages in Central Asia (SECCA)” and “Renewable Energy in

Central Asia (RECA).” International development partners including UNDP, UNICEF, OSCE, and others also took part. In addition, Young SDG Ambassadors, students, and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) joined the discussions, underlining the importance of broad stakeholder engagement in shaping the country’s green energy policies.

The session focused on an in-depth review of feedback and proposals received from governmental bodies, aiming to refine the draft strategy in line with national priorities. Once adopted, the strategy will support effective implementation, advancing both environmental protection and economic development in Turkmenistan.





For reference:

‘Energy transition is impossible without the active participation of every member of society. This Strategy is not just a document; it is a roadmap that will help us effectively convey the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency to every citizen of Turkmenistan, laying the foundations for a greener and more prosperous future’, noted Dr. Caroline Milow, Project Manager.

The First Roundtable was held on March 24, 2025, in Mary. During the meeting, participants discussed the concept of Strategy and its importance in raising awareness among stakeholders regarding energy saving, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources. The structure and format of the document were defined collaboratively, incorporating feedback from all attendees. Special emphasis was placed on enhancing the role of youth and women in promoting green initiatives and sustainable practices. These discussions formed the foundation of the first draft of the document, which was further submitted for review and consideration to key ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan.

SUPPORTING THE 35TH MEETING OF THE CHU-TALAS WATER COMMISSION: ADVANCING POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

The adoption of the Strategy is expected to play a crucial role in raising public awareness and strengthening national commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

On 24–25 April 2025, Astana hosted the 35th Meeting of the Chu-Talas Water Commission (CTWC), bringing together delegations from the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Discussions focused on key issues in water allocation and infrastructure management. The parties reached an agreement on the volume of water to be allocated to the Chu and Talas rivers for the upcoming growing season.

Other important topics included:

- **Infrastructure rehabilitation:** Review of repair and maintenance results for 2025, including the Kirov Reservoir and the Chumysh Hydroscheme.
- **Sustainable funding:** Agreement on increased funding for ongoing maintenance works.
- **Hydrological monitoring:** Report on the successful rehabilitation of the Zhasorken hydrological post on the Talas River.

The 35th CTWC meeting marked a significant step toward strengthening regional cooperation, sustainable water allocation, and the effective management of shared water resources.





ACTIVITIES FOR THE SYR DARYA RIVER DAY – 2025 HAVE STARTED IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

“Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia” supported an official launch of activities organized by NGO “Green Alliance KG” dedicated to the International Day of the Syr Darya River in the Kyrgyz Republic. The activities will run from April to November 2025.

The main objectives are to:

- raise environmental awareness and engage youth in water conservation,
- promote sustainable water use,
- strengthen regional cooperation in water management.

Activities will take place in Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Naryn oblasts, and will include:

- Seminars for students and schoolchildren,
- Eco-activities on riverbanks,
- A media campaign and creative contests,
- A National Forum in Osh city.

This initiative highlights the importance of the Syr Darya River as a vital resource for the region and emphasizes the role of youth and communities in protecting shared water resources.



SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING STRENGTHENED IN UZBEKISTAN



On the occasion of its 104th anniversary, the Agency of Hydrometeorological Service (UzHydromet) under the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change received 40 desktop computers to enhance its capacity for surface water quality monitoring.

The official handover took place within the framework of the pilot project ‘Strengthening the Material and Technical Capacity of Surface Water Quality Monitoring of UzHydromet’.



The ceremony was attended by Mr. Shavkatjon Kodiroy, Head of the International Cooperation Department of UzHydromet, and a GIZ delegation led by Dr. Caroline Milow, Programme Manager.

The new equipment was distributed among UzHydromet subdivisions across Uzbekistan, including the Information Services Department and the Monitoring Information Processing Department. This support will significantly improve the efficiency and quality of surface water pollution control and help prevent the harmful impact of economic activities on ecosystems.



JOINT MISSION OF GIZ AND THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION HELD IN BUKHARA

On 19 May 2025, representatives of GIZ, led by Mr. Joachim Fritz, Country Director of GIZ in Uzbekistan, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), headed by Mr. Andrin Fink, Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan, carried out a working mission to Bukhara within the framework of projects on sustainable water resources management.

During the visit to the Amu-Bukhara Basin Irrigation System Authority, discussions focused on strengthening technical capacity and human resource development in the water sector. The delegation also reviewed the progress of training activities supported by SDC and examined modern equipment and technology provided through the joint German/Swiss Regional Programme “Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia.”

In the afternoon, the mission visited the Land Reclamation Expedition, where they explored the drainage information system and discussed the digitalization of the water sector. Additional meetings were held with the Main Department of Construction and Housing and Communal Services (MoCHCS) of Bukhara Province and the Bukhara Water Supply Service, focusing on the implementation of a social contracting programme for rural water supply.

This joint mission underscored the commitment of GIZ and SDC to promoting sustainable solutions and digital innovation in Uzbekistan's water sector, enhancing both efficiency and service delivery.



TAJIKISTAN RECEIVES MOBILE WATER LABORATORY TO STRENGTHEN MONITORING CAPACITY

On 26 May 2025, an official handover ceremony of a fully equipped mobile water laboratory took place in Dushanbe. The vehicle was transferred to the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Committee for Environmental Protection of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The new mobile laboratory will significantly strengthen the Agency's technical capacity to conduct field-based surface water quality monitoring across various hydrographic zones of Tajikistan.

Equipped with advanced instruments for chemical and physical analyses, the laboratory allows monitoring in line with international water quality standards, including key elements of the EU Water Framework Directive.



The introduction of this mobile laboratory is expected to:

- Expand the geographic coverage and responsiveness of the national monitoring system, especially in remote and climate-vulnerable areas;
- Improve the accuracy and timeliness of data-driven decision-making;
- Strengthen institutional capacity for climate change adaptation and sustainable water management.



NEW HYDROMELIORATION TRAINING LABORATORY OPENED AT TAJIK AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY

On 27 May 2025, Tajik Agrarian University, named after Shirinsho Shohtemur, officially opened a new training laboratory at its Faculty of Hydromelioration in Dushanbe.

The opening ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Jörg Schuegraf, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Tajikistan; Ms. Sabine Olthof, Country Director of GIZ in Tajikistan; Ms. Salome Steib, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office (SDC) in Tajikistan; and Mr. Jamshed Shoimzoda, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan.

Equipped with modern technical instruments, the laboratory will serve as a practical training platform for students in the fields of irrigation, drainage, monitoring, and water resources management. As part of a pilot initiative, the lab aims to provide hands-on education, enhance professional skills, and prepare a new generation of specialists to address climate-related challenges in the water sector.



PROMOTING DIGITAL INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

On 18–19 June 2025, the project “Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia,” in cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), held a specialized training in Astana on Digital Solutions for Efficient Water Channel Management in Agriculture.

The training aimed to promote the use of modern technologies and digital tools for improving agricultural water management and to enable an exchange of best practices among national agencies and international experts.

The program was tailored for engineers from the KazSuShar Republic State Enterprise (*KazBodXoz*) and regional specialists from the Akmol region. Expert contributions were delivered by representatives of the



Ministry of Agriculture of Türkiye, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and the State Monitoring Service of Uzbekhydrogeology.

Key topics included:

- real-time water monitoring systems,
- Internet of Things (IoT) applications for canal efficiency,
- use of GIS/remote sensing in water management,
- predictive hydrogeology and data-driven allocation strategies.

The project team also presented ongoing cooperation with key national partners in Uzbekistan, showcasing the implementation of digital platforms under the Green Central Asia initiative.

This training marked an important step toward digitizing agricultural water management in Central Asia, supporting both climate resilience and sustainable resource use.





LETZTEST MOBILE LABORATORY HANDED OVER TO TAJIKISTAN'S INSTITUTE OF WATER PROBLEMS, HYDROPOWER AND ECOLOGY

On 14 July 2025, an official handover ceremony of the LETZTEST mobile laboratory set-box took place in Dushanbe. The equipment was transferred to the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.

The advanced mobile laboratory kit is designed to enhance water quality testing, research, and monitoring capabilities across the region. Equipped with state-of-the-art portable analytical tools, it enables specialists to carry out on-site water analysis more efficiently, providing reliable data to inform sustainable water management decisions.



The ceremony was attended by representatives of GIZ, the Institute, and other project partners, underscoring a shared commitment to tackling water-related challenges intensified by climate change in Central Asia.

This initiative is part of broader regional efforts to strengthen cooperation, build resilient infrastructure, and advance climate-sensitive water resource management, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

ETH ZURICH LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT IWRM EDUCATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Online – July 10–11, 2025

Key takeaways from the discussions included:

On 10 July 2025, the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) officially launched work on the grant agreement 'Supporting Central Asian Academic Institutions in Developing IWRM Programs at Bachelor, Master, and Postgraduate Levels'.

To assess the needs of universities in the region, ETH Zurich developed a questionnaire shared with five partner institutions. Three universities provided initial feedback and presented their inputs during bilateral meetings on 10–11 July, while the remaining two sessions are scheduled for 9–11 September 2025.

- The need for digital tools in IWRM education, such as WEAP, rainfall–runoff models, and remote sensing technologies;
- Integration of climate change projections to assess impacts on water resources, including runoff changes due to temperature and precipitation shifts;
- Equipping dedicated classrooms with high-performance computers and specialized software to ensure accessibility for teaching and training.

This initiative marks an important step toward strengthening academic capacity in the field of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and equipping the next generation of specialists with the tools and knowledge to respond to climate challenges in Central Asia.





AMU DARYA RIVER DAY CELEBRATED
IN SHIRKENT



On 16 July 2025, a roundtable discussion dedicated to environmental education and cultural exchange was held at the Environmental Education Centre of the Shirkent Historical and Nature Park to mark Amu Darya River Day.

The event was organized by the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan, with the support of the project “Climate-Sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia.”

The roundtable gathered environmental specialists, local rangers, fishermen, volunteers, and community members from Shakhrinav and Tursunzoda to share knowledge and strengthen community engagement in environmental protection.

A key highlight of the celebration was the release of 3,700 juvenile Amu Darya trout — a species included in the Red Book of Tajikistan — into the Karatag River. This initiative aims to restore and increase the population of this rare fish, contributing to biodiversity conservation in the region.



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