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Green Central Asia

Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience



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JOINT RESEARCH ON A GLACIER IN TAJIKISTAN



July 25 to August 1, a regional expedition visited the **Hydrographic Party (HGP) Glacier in the Zeravshan Basin (Tajikistan)** to study how climate change affects glacial systems and water resources.

The mission brought together 21 specialists from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan - glaciologists, hydrologists, and meteorologists. The expedition demonstrated strong regional scientific cooperation, including the participation of two women experts, underlining the growing role of women in climate and glaciology research.

During fieldwork, the team measured snow and ice mass balance, mapped glacier boundaries, drilled boreholes, and monitored temperature and meltwater runoff. A unified method using ablation and accumulation stakes was applied, enabling a shared understanding of glacier dynamics across Central Asia.

The collected data will support hydrological modeling and help develop adaptation strategies for water management in a changing climate.

As Samarbek Toytukov from the Kyrgyz Hydrometeorological Service noted:

“Glaciers are not just resources - they are sources of life for our region. Joint research is key to preserving this heritage and securing a sustainable future for the coming generations.”

THIRD CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL EXPEDITION: STUDYING THE BARKRAK GLACIER IN UZBEKISTAN

On August 8–18, 2025, a multidisciplinary expedition explored the Barkrak-medium Glacier in the Pskem Range (Uzbekistan). After arrival in Tashkent, participants underwent safety and methodological briefings and learned about the long-standing research experience of the Glacial Geology Centre.

The team visited the Maidontol meteorological station, observing monitoring facilities on the Pskem River sources. Hydrological studies of the Barkraksay River included water sampling, flow measurements, and analysis of physico-chemical parameters – essential for assessing the impact of glacier retreat on downstream water resources.

Research focused on glacier mass balance monitoring in ablation and accumulation zones, complemented by drone photogrammetry and digital geodetic surveying, enabling safer and more efficient data collection. Flow measurements continued across glacier-fed streams, and scientists identified a previously unknown underground water storage within the moraine.

At the final stage, the team began processing collected data and held a concluding session to exchange results and outline future research directions. Post-expedition analysis will refine glacier development forecasts and evaluate melting impacts on ecosystems and human activities.



An important feature of the expedition was active participation and exchange among specialists from across Central Asia, including women scientists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Experts in hydrology, glaciology, geophysics and geodesy worked side by side throughout fieldwork – from logistics to high-precision measurements under high-altitude conditions – demonstrating strong regional collaboration and capacity in glacier research.





EUROPEAN UNION AND TURKMENISTAN STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP IN GREEN ENERGY

From 1–5 September, the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan (Mary) hosted a series of events dedicated to advancing international academic cooperation, exchange, and professional development of teaching staff – with a strong focus on renewable and sustainable energy. A key outcome was the signing of **two Memoranda of Understanding – with Clausthal University of Technology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg**. The agreements aim to expand collaboration through joint educational programmes, research, and publications on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The signing coincided with Knowledge and Youth Day and the opening of a new academic building at the Institute.

‘The Memoranda and the training course mark an important step in cooperation between Turkmenistan and Germany in sustainable energy, noted Dr. Caroline Milow, Project Manager of EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028. – We expect this

partnership to boost expertise exchange and contribute to training highly qualified specialists capable of implementing ambitious green energy projects.’

In parallel, a four-day certified course titled ‘Sustainable Energy Systems: Fundamentals and Application of Renewable Technologies’ was held by experts from Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (Germany). The training gathered academics and government representatives – including professors and researchers from SEIT, specialists from the Scientific and Production Center ‘Renewable Energy Sources,’ and the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan.

The course strengthened participants’ understanding of renewable technologies, enhanced skills in project evaluation and implementation, and fostered international knowledge exchange in support of Turkmenistan’s national goals for energy diversification and sustainable development.



FOCUS ON WETLAND CONSERVATION: CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES ADOPT THE 'ISSYK-KUL RESOLUTION-2025'

On 8–9 September 2025, Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, hosted a regional seminar on wetland conservation and wise use under the Ramsar Convention, supported by the Green Central Asia Phase II programme. The discussions centred on biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation, and the critical role wetlands play in both.

The event brought together representatives of international and regional organisations and financial institutions committed to advancing wetland and biodiversity conservation in Central Asia.

A major outcome of the seminar was the adoption of the Issyk-Kul Resolution 2025 by delegates from five Central Asian countries, marking an important step to strengthen regional cooperation.

The resolution outlines commitments to:

- develop a joint Action Plan for the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia until 2030;
- expand the network of Ramsar sites and enhance their management;
- promote nature-based solutions for climate resilience;
- protect migratory bird routes and restore degraded ecosystems;
- involve local communities in conservation, sustainable use and ecotourism.

The resolution reinforces the shared responsibility to safeguard wetlands and preserve vital bird migration corridors for future generations.





CENTRAL ASIAN DELEGATION AT THE FORUM IN MALAYSIA: ADAPTING THE IRRIGATION SECTOR TO NEW ECONOMIC AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

From 7–13 September 2025, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, hosted the Fourth World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) and the 76th International Executive Council meeting of ICID. The event brought together leading experts in water resources and irrigation management, along with representatives of governments, international organisations and financial institutions.

The Forum became a major platform for exchanging knowledge, technologies and policy solutions for sustainable irrigation, with discussions focused on innovation, climate adaptation and long-term sector resilience.

A notable moment for Central Asia was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding between IFAS and ICID**, marking an important step toward strengthening regional and international cooperation on sustainable water management and ecosystem restoration in the Aral Sea region.

The participation of delegations from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan was supported by the Green Central Asia Phase II regional programme, reflecting shared commitment to addressing water and climate challenges collaboratively.



Special attention was given to women's participation and leadership in the water sector. A series of sessions – including the *Women in Breakfast initiative* – provided a platform for women experts to exchange experience and discuss pathways to enhance their role in irrigation and water resource governance, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse sector.

GREEN CENTRAL ASIA SUPPORTED THE 15TH CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

From 15–19 September 2025, Green Central Asia supported the 15th Conference of the Central Asian Leadership Programme (CALP) – a key regional platform for developing young and mid-level professionals in environmental governance.

The event was organized by CAREC in cooperation with the Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat and the OSCE Programme Offices in Astana, Bishkek, and Dushanbe. This year's programme placed strong emphasis on public communication skills, including public speaking, strategic messaging, media interaction and combating disinformation. Participants practiced interviews, press conference participation, and the preparation of clear, audience-oriented statements.

In addition, sessions addressed climate impacts on regional ecosystems, sustainable water management, and transboundary cooperation, with attention to gender equality and inclusive decision-making.

On the final day, participants visited the Botanical Garden of Almaty, where they learned about research on plant biodiversity conservation and the role of protected areas in climate resilience.

Background:

CALP was launched by CAREC in 2010 and is held annually to strengthen leadership in the field of sustainable development. The programme brings together government, civil society and private-sector representatives, promoting regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder dialogue.





REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF THE DROUGHTMAP ARAL SEA BASIN TOOL HELD IN ALMATY

On 17–18 September 2025, Green Central Asia, the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, organized a two-day workshop on the Droughtmap Aral Sea Basin (Droughtmap ASB) tool in Almaty.

The event gathered specialists from hydrometeorological agencies and the Ministries of Agriculture and Water of all five Central Asian countries. Participants explored meteorological drought indicators and indices and practiced estimating and visualizing them using Python and QGIS. They also learned to apply open-source geospatial tools for monitoring regional water bodies and integrating satellite data with ground observations.

Interactive sessions allowed experts to share practical feedback for improving Droughtmap ASB and present examples of its use for national and local contexts. Droughtmap ASB has been developed jointly with Central Asian institutions since 2022 and entered its second phase in November 2024.



5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 'SILK ROAD OF KNOWLEDGE: CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN AN ERA OF SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL UNCERTAINTIES'

On 20 September 2025, the Kazakh-German University (DKU) hosted the 5th Silk Road of Knowledge International Conference in a hybrid format. More than 160 participants from seven countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Germany – took part.

The 2025 conference focused on climate mitigation and adaptation amid social-ecological uncertainties. Since its launch in 2020, the Silk Road of Knowledge has evolved into a recognized platform fostering dialogue among policymakers, scientists, practitioners and civil society.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by Dr. Caroline Milow (GIZ) and Dr. Wolrad Rommel (DKU), who emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, evidence-based decision-making, and the active engagement of youth and women in climate action.

The event featured six thematic parallel sessions, led by regional and international partners, covering:

- glacier monitoring and modelling;
- gender and climate change;
- innovative hydrological forecasting;
- digital tools for climate education;
- drought resilience and Droughtmap-ASB training;
- urban climate resilience and sustainable city planning.

Key outcomes:

- A shared call for stronger regional cooperation on data exchange, early warning systems and adaptation strategies;
- Presentation of successful practices and innovative tools in glacier research, drought management and urban planning;
- Results and materials will be published via the Silk Road of Knowledge website and partner networks.





GENDER ASPECTS IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

On 25 September 2025, Green Central Asia hosted the final seminar on “*Gender Aspects in Integrated Water Resources Management under Climate Change*”, concluding a year-long series of training sessions for the Kafirnigan Basin Women’s Forum.

The seminar brought together representatives from government, academia, civil society, and NGOs. Mr. Muslihiddin Kholikzoda from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan shared achievements under the *Water Sector Reform 2016–2025*.

Participants discussed preparations for the 6th Kafirnigan Basin Women’s Forum on 16 October 2025, outlining priorities and the planned format. A notable development was the involvement of the Association of Bloggers of Tajikistan, enhancing public outreach and strengthening dialogue between experts and the wider community.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2025 HELD IN TASHKENT

From 8–10 October 2025, the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers hosted the ‘Water Security and Climate Change 2025’ conference, under the theme *‘Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Water and Environmental Management.’*

Dr. Caroline Milow, GIZ welcomed participants and actively contributed to panel discussions. Plenary sessions examined factors contributing to the success of research and development projects, as well as challenges that hinder their implementation.

The event brought together experts from science, higher education, and industry representing nearly **40 countries**, fostering international dialogue on sustainable water management and climate resilience.





THIRD YOUTH FORUM OF THE SYR DARYA RIVER BASIN: DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

On 11 October 2025, Guliston, Sughd region, Tajikistan, with our support, hosted the Third Youth Forum of the Syr Darya River Basin, bringing together over 260 young eco-activists from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan under the “Green Patrols” movement.

The Forum aimed to strengthen transboundary youth cooperation in environmental protection, sustainable water management, and promotion of effective environmental practices across the Syr Darya Basin. Its activities were guided by the Khujand Declaration of Eternal Friendship (March 2025), reaffirming trilateral commitment to joint action on environmental and water challenges, and support for youth initiatives.

Against growing climate risks, the Forum highlighted youth as key agents of environmental change, contributing to policymaking and sustainable resource management. The event marked a milestone in youth engagement, regional cooperation, and sustainable water governance in Central Asia.



TURKMENISTAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN FLORENCE

From 29 September to 1 October 2025, a Turkmen delegation attended the training course ‘Regulation and Integration of Renewable Energy’ at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. The event, organized by the Florence School of Regulation with leading European institutions, gathered policymakers, regulators, and energy experts from around the world. The delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkmengaz, Ministry of Energy, and State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan. Participants explored international best practices in renewable

energy governance, support mechanisms, investment models, grid development, and innovative Power-to-X technologies.

The course provided an opportunity to enhance professional expertise, exchange knowledge, and learn advanced approaches for accelerating sustainable energy transitions. Participation was supported by the “EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2028” project, co-financed by the EU and Germany, and implemented by GIZ





6TH KAFIRNIGAN RIVER BASIN WOMEN'S FORUM: 'WOMEN'S VOICES IN AN ERA OF MELTING GLACIERS: KNOWLEDGE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT'



On 16 October 2025, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, hosted the 6th Kafirnigan River Basin Women's Forum, titled '*Women's Voices in an Era of Melting Glaciers: Knowledge for Equitable and Sustainable Water Management*'. The event was organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan with GCA support and brought together over 60 participants from across the region.

The forum featured representatives from government, international organizations, scientific institutions, and active women leaders from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Iran. Discussions focused on climate change impacts, glacier retreat, sustainable water use, and the integration of gender perspectives in water management. Participants highlighted the vital role of women, especially in rural areas, in ensuring water security and sustainable development.

Successful examples of women's engagement were shared, strategies for strengthening transboundary cooperation were discussed, and participants committed to expanding women's participation in climate adaptation initiatives. The forum reaffirmed the importance of women's voices in environmental decision-making and served as a key step toward more inclusive and sustainable water governance in the Kafirnigan River Basin.

6TH KAFIRNIGAN RIVER BASIN WOMEN'S FORUM: 'WOMEN'S VOICES IN AN ERA OF MELTING GLACIERS: KNOWLEDGE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT'

On 3–4 November 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, hosted the policy dialogue 'Gender and Youth in Water & Energy: Building Inclusive Futures for Central Asia', co-organized by the CLIMPACT project (PIK) under the Green Central Asia initiative.

The event brought together policymakers, researchers, and civil society representatives to explore how gender and youth inclusion can strengthen cooperation and resilience in the water-energy nexus. Partners included GIZ, GFZ, DGAP, OSCE Academy, and the Women and Water Association.

Key discussions focused on enhancing collaboration among regional networks such as Women in Water Diplomacy, Drops of the Future, and Central Asian Women in Renewable Energy. Outcomes included improving coordination and visibility of networks, formalizing partnerships with governments, and developing joint training and mentoring for women and youth.

The dialogue emphasized integrating gender-sensitive climate education into higher education and basin-level capacity building, and proposed new platforms for joint research, regional databases, and small grants to support inclusive innovation in water and energy governance. By connecting science, policy, and practice, the dialogue advanced equitable and sustainable environmental governance across Central Asia.





CLIMPACT AT THE XVI CENTRAL ASIAN FORUM 'INTERNETCA-2025'



On 31 October 2025, Almaty, Kazakhstan, hosted the XVI Central Asian Forum “Development of the Internet Sphere – InternetCA–2025”, organized by MediaNet International Centre for Journalism. The event brought together journalists and experts from across the region to discuss free and equal Internet access in Central Asia.

The forum’s theme, ‘*Free Internet for Free Societies: Ideas and Solutions*’, focused on Internet regulation, freedom of expression, disinformation risks, and digital transparency, including public accessibility of climate data.

As part of Green Central Asia, Diego Pablo Pineda Schwarz (PIK) presented the CLIMPACT project and introduced *Climate Impacts Online (CIO)* – an open-access portal providing climate data for research, education, and public use. CIO demonstrates how transparent climate information can improve public understanding and support informed decision-making.

SIDE EVENT AT COP30 HIGHLIGHTS URGENT LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

On 18 November 2025, partners from across Central Asia gathered at COP30 in Belém for the side event '*Climate Change, Health and Productivity Loss in Central Asia*'. The event was co-organised by the Kazakh Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, PIK, CACF, UNFPA and the Heidelberg Institute for Global Health and was moderated by Stefanie Wesch (PIK, Green Central Asia).

Experts highlighted extreme heat impacts on public health, gender-specific vulnerabilities, and labor productivity losses, and stressed the uneven distribution of risks across the region. Panel discussions featured representatives from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and CACF, focusing on national adaptation measures, data needs, and regional cooperation.

Key priorities identified were:

- collecting robust data on climate-related health and productivity impacts;
- implementing health-centered adaptation measures, including occupational protections and early warning systems;
- strengthening regional cooperation ahead of the Central Asia Ecological Summit 2026 in Astana.

The session concluded with strong momentum to integrate climate-health considerations into national strategies and regional platforms.





REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ADVANCES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

On 27–28 November 2025, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, hosted a meeting of the Regional Working Group on implementing the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, supported by the Green Central Asia programme.

Participants reviewed progress for 2024–2025, discussed the draft Implementation Plan, and examined proposals to improve the functioning of the Secretariat. Special focus was placed on potential financing mechanisms and instruments to ensure effective strategy implementation.

The meeting brought together officially nominated members from all Central Asian countries, along with representatives of international organizations, development partners, and regional institutions. Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and advancing climate change adaptation across Central Asia.



KAZAKH DELEGATION VISITS CLIMPACT AT PIK

On 8 December 2025, a delegation from Kazakhstan visited the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) to discuss how scientific evidence can support national climate adaptation planning. The visit was part of a UNDP study tour on Climate Change Adaptation in Germany and linked to the CLIMPACT project on climate risks and adaptation in Central Asia.

The delegation received presentations on PIK's research and capacity-building activities, including climate modelling, impact assessment, and policy analysis. Experts highlighted ongoing collaborations with Central Asian partners and the role of CLIMPACT in supporting regional knowledge exchange.



Practical tools for adaptation planning were showcased: climate country profiles for Kazakhstan and the Climate Impacts Online platform, providing open-access climate projections and sector-specific impact data. A case study of the Spree River basin in Germany illustrated how regional studies inform water management and adaptation decisions in human-impacted river basins.

The visit underscored the importance of cooperation between research institutions and public authorities to develop and implement effective National Adaptation Plans.





SUPPORTING REGIONAL COOPERATION: 90TH ICWC MEETING HELD IN BURABAY

On 14 August 2025, Burabay, Kazakhstan became the focal point of regional water diplomacy, hosting the 90th meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC). We supported the participation of all Central Asian delegations, ensuring productive dialogue and smooth coordination.

The meeting brought together high-level representatives from across Central Asia to address priority issues in transboundary water management and strengthen collective efforts to ensure sustainable use of shared water resources.

Key outcomes and discussion points:

- Water allocation limits and reservoir operation regimes for the 2025 vegetation period in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya river basins.
- Progress on implementing commitments stemming from the Summits of the Heads of State – founders of IFAS.
- Continued commitment of the region to enhance cooperation, data exchange, and joint planning for climate-resilient water management.

The 90th ICWC meeting once again demonstrated the importance of coordinated regional decision-making and the role of dialogue in promoting water security throughout Central Asia.



UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION: STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND CENTRAL ASIA

On 10 September 2025, a new chapter in academic collaboration unfolded as the first bilateral meetings were held between the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and partner universities from Central Asia – the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I. Skryabin and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. These meetings were organised within the framework of the grant agreement supporting education in water-related fields.

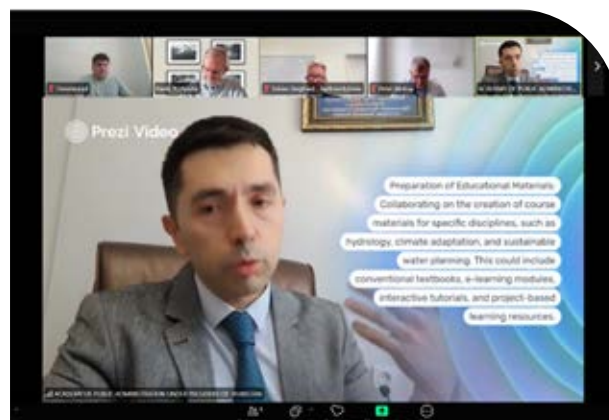
Building an academic bridge

The discussions focused on assessing the potential of partner institutions and identifying priority areas for cooperation. Both sides exchanged views on educational needs, research opportunities and future joint initiatives.

Within the grant agreement, ETH Zurich supports universities in Central Asia in developing and improving Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programmes at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. By enhancing curricula and strengthening academic capacity, the initiative aims to cultivate a generation of specialists equipped to address water-related challenges in a changing climate.

Towards long-term collaboration

The project lays the foundation for sustainable academic development, promoting knowledge exchange, training qualified professionals and advancing research collaboration in water resources management and regional sustainability. The first meetings marked an important step toward deeper partnership and continued dialogue between academic communities in Switzerland and Central Asia.





STRENGTHENING BASIN MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

On 6–7 September 2025, the Issyk-Kul region hosted a forum titled ‘Development of the Water Sector through Basin Management Principles in Kyrgyzstan’.

Advancing water sector reform

The event gathered representatives of key water management departments and basin administrations of the Kyrgyz Republic. Discussions focused on the implementation of the National Water Strategy–2040, as well as practical steps to strengthen basin-level governance – a core direction in the country’s ongoing water sector reforms.

Participants explored how the basin approach can improve planning, resource allocation and cooperation among institutions, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and climate-resilient water management.

Key outcomes

As an outcome of the forum, priority plans and recommendations were agreed to support more efficient, transparent and accountable management of water resources in Kyrgyzstan. The event marked an important milestone in promoting basin management principles and strengthening institutional capacities in the sector.



SWISS CONTRIBUTION IN FOCUS DURING REGIONAL VISIT TO KHUJAND



On 10–12 September, a regional delegation visited Khujand, Tajikistan, within the framework of the “Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia” project, implemented by GIZ. The visit was supported by the Government of Switzerland and aimed to strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange on modern water management practices in the Syr Darya basin.

Learning from experience – on the ground
Representatives of ministries and agencies from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan explored three key locations:



- River Basin Organization of the Syr Darya
- Automated hydropost of the Big Fergana Canal
- Demonstration site at the Technopark of Khujand State University

Participants were introduced to real-time telemetry systems, digital water flow accounting and remote gate control. Discussions also focused on regional data exchange and coordination, crucial for sustainable management of shared water resources.





Swiss support in action

With support from Switzerland, an automatic water flow monitoring system was restored and installed at the transboundary Big Fergana Canal. Due to complex hydraulic conditions caused by reverse flow, a specialised ‘Rubicon’ technology was applied – a practical example of innovation improving basin-level management.

More than a technical visit

Beyond facilities and instruments, the visit helped build trust and strengthen water diplomacy between countries. Seeing solutions directly on-site enabled participants to discuss challenges openly, align priorities and explore opportunities for joint management of rivers, canals and reservoirs.

In a time of increasing water scarcity and climate pressures, such field visits play a vital role in fostering cooperation, sharing practical know-how and shaping a sustainable future for the region.



KAZAKHSTAN DISCUSSES WATER CODE IMPLEMENTATION AT SECTORAL ROUND TABLE IN ASTANA



On 29 September, Astana hosted a sectoral round table titled “Joint Initiatives in the Implementation of the New Water Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Implementation, Practice, Prospects”, bringing together policymakers and international partners to discuss practical steps for putting the new Water Code into action.

The event was attended by Mr. Nurzhan Nurzhigitov, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who delivered a welcoming address. Representatives of ministries, government agencies and international organizations also took part in the discussions.

Turning policy into practice

Organized jointly with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, the round table focused on mechanisms for implementing the Water Code adopted in 2025. A particular emphasis was placed on fostering a culture of rational water use, enhancing stakeholder engagement and encouraging the active involvement of civil society in water governance.

Participants exchanged views on how to scale up ongoing initiatives, integrate project tools into educational programmes and regional development strategies, and strengthen cooperation between institutions.





Launch of a new regional project

During the event, the project **‘Syr Darya – The Future of Central Asia’** was officially launched, marking its transition from Astana to the Kyzylorda region – a significant milestone in expanding regional work on sustainable water management.

In her remarks, **Dr. Caroline Milow, GIZ Programme Manager**, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the OSCE and partners for their collaboration, noting that

“today’s dialogue is an important step towards the effective implementation of the new Water Code and the promotion of a culture of rational water use in Kazakhstan and across the region.”



KAZAKHSTAN STRENGTHENS WATER MONITORING WITH NEW MOBILE LABORATORY



On 29 September, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Kazhydromet and the Regional Programme “Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia”, implemented by GIZ. This initiative is part of a pilot project to assess water quality in transboundary and remote water bodies of the Zhambyl region.

Mobile laboratory for real-time water monitoring

The agreement provides for the transfer of a mobile laboratory, fully equipped to conduct on-site operational assessments of water quality. With modern instruments to analyze key water quality indicators, Kazhydromet specialists will now be able to monitor rivers, reservoirs and other water bodies without transporting samples to stationary laboratories, improving both efficiency and accuracy.

Enhancing resilience and national capacity

The handover of the mobile laboratory represents an important step in strengthening Kazakhstan’s national water monitoring system. By enabling timely and precise water assessments, the initiative contributes to a more resilient water sector, better prepared to respond to climate change impacts and transboundary water management challenges.





7TH KAFIRNIGAN RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DUSHANBE



On 17 October 2025, Dushanbe hosted the 7th meeting of the River Basin Council for the management of water resources in the Kafirnigan River Basin. With project support the event was organized by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Promoting sustainable and transboundary water management

Around 70 specialists participated, including 25 women from Tajikistan's water sector and delegates from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and other neighbouring countries. This broad international representation highlighted the importance of transboundary cooperation and the basin approach to managing shared water resources in the context of climate change.

Draft Basin Plan 2026–2030

A key highlight was the presentation of the Draft Basin Water Resources Management Plan for 2026–2030, prepared by national experts. The Plan is designed to ensure rational, sustainable, and balanced water use, considering environmental, economic, and social factors. It includes concrete measures to:

- Improve the condition of water resources
- Enhance water-use efficiency
- Support adaptation to climate change impacts

For the Government of Tajikistan, the Plan serves as a strategic tool to implement national water policy, contributing to sustainable development, food and water security, and regional cooperation. It will also guide management decisions, resource allocation, and investment planning in the water sector.

Next steps and regional commitment

Following discussions, the Draft Basin Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources for review and approval. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of regional countries to jointly address water management challenges and strengthen cooperation under the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM).

41ST MEETING OF THE BALKHASH-ALAKOL BASIN COUNCIL HELD IN ALMATY

On 17 October 2025, Almaty hosted the 41st meeting of the Balkhash–Alakol Basin Council, supported by GIZ in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC).

Bringing stakeholders together

The meeting gathered representatives of state bodies, local executive authorities (akimats), representative bodies (maslikhats), academia, NGOs, and international organizations. Observers included delegates from the Basin Councils of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as basin organizations from Tajikistan, emphasizing the

importance of regional cooperation in water resources management.

Key topics and discussions

Participants reviewed achievements and ongoing challenges in managing regional water resources, with particular focus on:

- Implementing the new Water Code
- Integrating international best practices
- Expanding participation of all stakeholders - from government and basin organizations to NGOs and local communities





Special attention was given to preparations for the 2026 flood season, improving monitoring and hydrometeorological forecasting systems, and enhancing emergency preparedness for local populations.

Outcomes and priorities

Following discussions, the Council developed coordinated recommendations to:

- Enhance water use efficiency
- Modernize infrastructure and reduce water losses
- Strengthen cooperation among key agencies and basin organizations

- Implement the Master Plan for Water Resources Management of Almaty city
- Update regional programs for Almaty and Zhetysu regions
- Integrate Kazhydromet data into water management planning
- Promote public participation and environmental awareness, fostering a culture of responsible water use

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches to managing shared water resources and addressing climate-related challenges in the region.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAINING PROGRAM ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

From 21 to 23 October 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, hosted a workshop on the joint development of a handbook and certification course for future water resource managers, focusing on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The event was organized by the Department of Geoecology and the Department of Geography Education at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Collaboration across Central Asia

The workshop brought together representatives from **partner universities across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**. Over three days, participants:



- Reviewed progress on the handbook and certification course
- Refined the course structure
- Presented and discussed individual textbook chapters developed by partner institutions

Modern teaching methods in action

A key focus of the workshop was the introduction of modern, subject-specific teaching and learning methods. Prof. Lindau and Dr. Ulbricht from MLU's Department of Geography Education shared innovative pedagogical approaches, while Mr. Alisher Saidmukhtorov, Director of the Research Institute for Political Processes, Diplomacy,





and Globalization in Tajikistan, demonstrated 'Kahoot!', an interactive platform that turns quizzes and surveys into engaging learning experiences.

These methods were enthusiastically received and will form the foundation of the upcoming certification course for water managers.

Strengthening transboundary water education

All partners emphasized the importance of increasing awareness about water availability and distribution challenges due to climate change. The workshop reinforced the need to professionalize transboundary water resource management through high-quality, subject-specific education, ensuring that future specialists are well-equipped to manage Central Asia's shared water resources sustainably.



ROUND TABLE ON KAZAKHSTAN-GERMANY WATER PARTNERSHIP HELD IN BERLIN

On 11 November 2025, the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Berlin hosted the round table ‘Water Strategic Partnership between Kazakhstan and Germany: A New Level.’ The event brought together government representatives, water utilities, technology companies, and research institutions from both countries to discuss shared priorities and future collaboration.

Sharing best practices and innovations

Participants explored German best practices in water utility management, energy efficiency, and smart metering, as well as opportunities for technology exchange and digital solutions to strengthen urban water resilience.

Speakers included representatives from the Kazakh Ministry of Water Resources, GIZ, PIK, UFU, TUM, German Water Partnership, Harzwasserwerke, Berliner Wasserbetriebe, and other organizations.

Advancing cooperation

The round table concluded with the signing of new cooperation agreements and an informal networking session, fostering stronger ties between Kazakh and German institutions.

A key milestone was the Memorandum of Understanding signed between PIK (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) and the Information-Analytical Center



for Water Resources (IACWR) under the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan. This agreement marks an important step toward enhanced collaboration on climate change, hydrological modelling, and water forecasting for Central Asia.



OPENING OF THE WATER DIPLOMACY CENTER IN TAJIKISTAN

On 12 November 2025, Dushanbe hosted the official opening of the Water Diplomacy Center at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Tajikistan, attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan. The Center was established with support from our regional programme “Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia”.

A milestone in global water dialogue

The inauguration coincided with the 25th anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution 2003 as the “International Year of Freshwater”, an initiative launched by President Emomali Rahmon. This landmark underscores Tajikistan’s long-standing commitment to water as a source of peace, sustainable development, and regional cooperation.



Advancing water diplomacy

The Water Diplomacy Center symbolizes Tajikistan’s leadership in global water governance. It will serve as a platform for:

- Academic exchange and professional development
- Advancement of innovative water management approaches
- Trust-based dialogue on transboundary and climate-related water challenges

Tajikistan’s vision in action

Tajikistan has been a global advocate for the international water agenda, promoting regional cooperation and international solidarity. The establishment of the Center exemplifies how visionary ideas are translated into practical action, continuing the country’s mission as a recognized leader in water diplomacy worldwide.



REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES COORDINATION: KEY ICWC DECISIONS IN ASHGABAT

On 13 November 2025, Ashgabat hosted the 91st meeting of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC). The event was organized with project support, in cooperation with the State Committee for Water Management of Turkmenistan, and facilitated the participation of delegations from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Key outcomes

- Reports presented on water use limits and reservoir operation regimes for the 2025 growing season in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya basins
- Approval of water intake limits for the 2025–2026 non-vegetation period for all countries in both river basins

The meeting reinforced regional cooperation and coordinated water management, ensuring sustainable and rational use of transboundary water resources in Central Asia.





THIRD MEETING OF THE BASIN DIALOGUES IN THE AMU DARYA AND SYR DARYA RIVER BASINS HELD IN TASHKENT

On 2–3 December 2025, Tashkent hosted the Third Meeting of the Basin Dialogues in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River Basins alongside the Partner Dialogue. The meetings aimed to strengthen partnerships, establish a sustainable platform for experience exchange, coordinate future steps in water management, and summarize regional activities celebrating Amu Darya and Syr Darya River Days.

Participants and key messages

The dialogue gathered representatives from national ministries across Central Asia, as well as international organizations and programmes working in water resources management.



Mr. Andreas Unterstaller, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan:

“ The Basin Dialogue remains a vital trust-building platform for addressing shared water challenges. Water, energy, and climate are inseparable pillars of Central Asia’s sustainable future. Structured regional cooperation is essential to mobilize public and private investment. Through the EU’s Global Gateway, this is already translating into concrete projects and strategic investments. ”

Mr. Joachim Fritz, Country Director of GIZ for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan:

“ Sustainable water management is only possible through close regional cooperation. We share the responsibility to foster trust, exchange knowledge, and develop long-term solutions together. ”

Mr. Andrin Fink, Embassy of Switzerland in Uzbekistan:

“ The dialogue is essential for identifying solutions, sharing knowledge, and coordinating actions that ensure efficient, equitable, and sustainable water use, while protecting our shared ecosystems for future generations. ”

Topics discussed

Key discussions included:

- Results of GIZ | SDC | EU project activities in 2025 and proposals for the 2026 action plan
- Ecosystem preservation in the Amu Darya basin, including runoff formation and dispersion zones
- Climate resilience and infrastructure development in the Syr Darya basin (Nexus approach)
- Economic cooperation tools and mechanisms in the Amu Darya basin, aligned with agreements and Heads of State decisions
- Presentation of grant projects with GTK Finland and Vodohospodárska výstavba, Slovakia



Outcomes

Participants agreed on further actions to implement climate-sensitive water management methods, discussed ways to enhance joint project efficiency, and explored approaches to reduce risks in project implementation.

The meetings reaffirmed the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and trust-building among Central Asian countries to ensure sustainable and resilient water resources management in the region.





THE FIRST TEAM EUROPE INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP MEETING ON WATER, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENED IN DUSHANBE

On October 20, the first meeting of the Team Europe Initiative Working Group on Water, Energy and Climate Change involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

‘The water–energy–climate change nexus is at the heart of sustainable development in Central Asia. The European Union is proud to bring together EU Member States and European financial institutions under the Global Gateway – Team Europe Initiative to promote regional cooperation and concrete investments such as on Rogun. Achieving meaningful progress for our planet requires teamwork – no single actor can do this alone,’ underlined H.E. Radosław Darski, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Tajikistan.

‘This is the first Team Europe Initiative working group meeting with the participation of national partners. The meeting provides an important opportunity to discuss and coordinate planned activities in the areas of water, energy and climate change in Central Asia, as well as to design a joint work plan for 2026.,’ noted Dr. Caroline Milow, project manager and head of the TEI technical Secretariat.

The Working Group meeting discussed current and future activities related to water, energy, and climate change in Central Asia, identified regionally accepted priorities and drafted a workplan to be jointly implemented in 2026.

The meeting was attended by authorised representatives appointed by each Central Asian country (representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Water, Energy and Environment), as well as by representatives of the European Union, the European Union Member States participating in the TEI and other international stakeholders.





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