

Green Central Asia II

Bridging borders to enhance regional adaptation and mitigation

Context

Central Asia is among the regions of the world that are most affected by and vulnerable to climate change (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports 2022, 2023). The region's water, food and energy security are not only threatened by the warming climate, but also by environmental degradation and human interventions.

To address the need for closer regional cooperation on climate security, the German Green Central Asia (GCA) Initiative was launched in January 2020 by the Federal Foreign Office. It also represents a German contribution to the EU-Central Asia Strategy (2019). In this capacity and as part of the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia, GCA II is also receiving EU co-financing for Turkmenistan to support an EU – Turkmenistan policy dialogue on reducing GHG/ methane emissions and preserving the environment.

In the last years, GCA established a political, technical, and scientific dialogue and decisively contributed to raising awareness about the importance of regional cooperation on climate security. The governments of the five Central Asian countries adopted a Regional Joint Action Plan in November 2021 which will continue to serve as a basis for all joint activities in the region. They include a policy dialogue facilitated by inter-governmental working groups, priority projects on climate-sensitive water, land, and climate risk management as well as support to the cooperation of Central Asian countries in the framework of international environment instruments and capacity building. The centrepiece of the policy dialogue was the elaboration of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2022 and 2023, which was presented at COP 28 in Dubai and adopted by all five Central Asian countries.

Programme name	Green Central Asia II: Transboundary dialogue on Climate, Environment and Security in Central Asia – Bridging borders to enhance regional adaptation and mitigation
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Co-funded by	European Union (EU)
Programme region	Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan
Main partners	Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. National Committee of Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Duration	04.2024 – 06.2028

Our objective

The strengthened transboundary cooperation on climate impacts in Central Asia address climate risks and supports conflict prevention.

Our measures

The Green Central Asia II Regional Programme, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the government of Germany, aims to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change adaptation with a gender-sensitive approach. The programme also supports the development of NDCs in the region and helps institutions and individuals improve their ability to adapt to climate change through better knowledge sharing and scientific cooperation.

The Programme promotes continuing dialogue between policy makers and science.



L. to r.: Regional expedition Barkrak-Medium in Uzbekistan. 2023.

Project kickoff workshop in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan. 2025.

Pg 2: Regional expedition GGP Glacier in Tajikistan. 2024.

Kafirnigan River Basin Women Forum. 2025.



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Target groups and partners

GIZ, like in the previous phase partners up with the Helmholtz-Centre Potsdam – German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and the German-Kazakh University (DKU).

The programme's partners are specialists and managers of those entities responsible for foreign policy, climate, water and environment in Central Asia. At the regional level, this is the already existing inter-ministerial platform of the GCA Initiative, the EU-Central Asia Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation, the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea as well as the "Blue Peace" process of Switzerland; at the national level the ministries of foreign affairs, climate, environment, water, agriculture and energy, as well as relevant civil society organisations and journalists working on environmental/climate related issues and the academia.

Through these partners, the programme reaches the entire population of the Aral Sea Basin — around 75.6 million people. People of all ages, genders and social backgrounds benefit from stronger regional cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including improved NDCs.

The programme will especially target women policy makers and scientists.

Our results up to date

- **Water Governance & Diplomacy:**
 - SDG 6.5.2 reporting workshop;
 - Water Diplomacy in Central Asia Conference;
 - Regional Working Group on Water–Energy Mechanism (4th & 5th meetings);
 - Experience exchange visit on sustainable natural resources management (Turkmenistan–Uzbekistan).
- **Glaciers, Cryosphere & Climate Science:**
 - Regional Working Group on Glacier Monitoring & Modelling;
 - International Conference on Glacier Preservation in Dushanbe;
 - Regional Forum on Glacier Monitoring & Cryosphere;
 - Regional expeditions (GGP Glacier in Tajikistan, Barkrak-Medium in Uzbekistan).
- **Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia:**
 - Regional Working Group on Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (4th & 5th meetings);
 - Subregional workshop on TMFs (tailings management facilities);
 - Drought monitoring tool workshop.
- **Pollution, Waste & Ecosystems:**
 - Central Asia E-Waste Forum;
 - Ramsar wetlands conservation workshop.
- **Social Inclusion, Leadership & Capacity Building:**
 - 15th Central Asian Leadership Programme
 - Gender & Youth in Water & Energy
 - Kafirnigan River Basin Women Forum.

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