

Small Grants, Big Impact

Five regional projects turning innovative climate solutions into lasting impact for communities across Central Asia.



The Small Grants and Climate Innovation Facility

The Small Grants and Climate Innovation Facility (SGCIF) is part of the UK Government's "Climate, Energy and Water Security for Central Asia" (CEW-CA) programme and is implemented through the regional programme "Climate Risk Management in Central Asia" (CRM-CA). The CRM-CA programme is implemented by GIZ in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan on behalf of the German Government and is co-funded by UK International Development. For more information, please visit <https://greencentralasia.org/en/climate-risk-management/>

5

Regional projects sponsored across Central Asia

4

Partner countries reached on the ground

\$100M+

Green finance structured for mobilization

46k+

tCO₂e annual mitigation potential identified

What This Brochure Covers

This publication presents the key results of five regional projects supported by the SGCIF. Each project tackles a distinct climate challenge — from regenerative agriculture and carbon markets to energy-efficient housing, water-saving irrigation, renewable energy access, and climate finance — while sharing a common goal: building a more resilient, low-carbon future for Central Asia.

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Regenerative Agriculture & Carbon Markets

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Energy Innovations in Agriculture

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Water-Saving Irrigation Partnerships

4

Green & Climate-Resilient Homes

5

Bridging Climate Finance Gaps

A joint commitment to climate action

By combining small-scale grants with innovation, the SGCIF empowers local organisations, farmers, financial institutions and governments to test, scale and sustain practical climate solutions — ensuring that resources reach where they are needed most and deliver measurable, lasting results.

Improving rural quality of life through regenerative agriculture and voluntary carbon markets

Promoting the adoption of regenerative agriculture and advancing carbon market readiness in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

KAZAKHSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

LEAD & PARTNERS

The **Kazakh Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives (ECOJER)**, together with its Tajik partner **Sharikon Baroi Rushd**, established a strong technical and institutional foundation for regenerative agriculture carbon projects in Central Asia.

Key Achievements

- ◆ **Establishment of pilot sites** in Kazakhstan (20,000 ha) and Tajikistan (10,581 ha), including baseline data collection, soil sampling, and Soil Organic Carbon modelling aligned with VM0042 requirements.
- ◆ **Progress toward carbon market integration** through the development of key project documentation, financial models, and a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework — supporting future Verified Carbon Standard registration and carbon credit issuance.
- ◆ **Adaptation of the VM0042 methodology** to regional conditions and creation of 10 structured training modules covering the full carbon project cycle.
- ◆ **Innovative digital tools developed**, including a mobile-accessible knowledge platform and the “VM0042 Assistant” Telegram bot for farmers and practitioners.
- ◆ **Capacity building for more than 90 stakeholders** — farmers, agribusiness representatives and experts — with practical training on regenerative agriculture practices.

~38,000

tCO₂e estimated annual
mitigation potential

30,581 ha

Combined pilot area across two
countries

90+

Stakeholders trained in
regenerative practices

10

Training modules on the carbon
project cycle

Setting the frame conditions for mass scaling of energy innovations in agricultural systems

Expanding access to sustainable energy and agricultural solutions in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

TAJIKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

LEAD & PARTNERS

The consortium led by **Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (WHH)** and implemented in partnership with the Tajik organisation **Bargi Sabz** and the **Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREEED)** in Kyrgyzstan made significant progress in promoting climate-resilient agricultural and energy solutions across both countries.

Key Achievements

- ◆ **Awareness raising and outreach** through 22 roadshows, engaging over 3,270 participants with demonstrations of solar pumps, drip irrigation, solar dryers, solar fencing and heat pumps.
- ◆ **Nationwide media and SMS campaigns** reaching more than 465,000 people in Kyrgyzstan and around 15,000 farmers in Tajikistan with information on selected climate-smart technologies.
- ◆ **Certification and training of 350 technicians**, engineers, farmers and students in renewable energy and climate-smart technologies.
- ◆ **Market development activities**, including supplier mapping, online information platforms, participation in an international clean energy expo, and the establishment of 8 demonstration sites across both countries.

Why it matters

By combining large-scale awareness campaigns with hands-on training and a developing supplier market, the project lays the groundwork for energy innovations to scale well beyond the lifetime of the grant — strengthening climate resilience and productivity in two of Central Asia's most agriculture-dependent economies.

22

Roadshows demonstrating climate-smart tech

480k+

People reached via media & SMS campaigns

350

Technicians, engineers & farmers trained

8

Demonstration sites established

Ferghana Valley Irrigation Partnerships Project

Stimulating local markets and improving access to financing and water-saving irrigation technologies in the Syr Darya Basin.

KYRGYZSTAN

TAJIKISTAN

LEAD & PARTNERS

Helvetas Central Asia, together with the **Youth of Osh** public association, promoted efficient irrigation technologies in southern Kyrgyzstan and northern Tajikistan to improve water efficiency, agricultural productivity and climate resilience.

◆ Key Achievements

- ◆ **5 “Agro-Caravan 2026” trade fairs** reached 23 irrigation technology companies, 13 financial institutions and over 1,275 farmers – with women accounting for 16–29% of trade fair participants.
- ◆ **Boosted farmers’ investments** in sustainable irrigation technologies with commercial outcomes for suppliers: over €145,000 in reported turnover, including record sales of geomembrane-lined reservoirs and irrigation pipes ahead of the agricultural season.
- ◆ **An innovative instalment-based financing mechanism** developed, improving farmers’ access to irrigation technologies.
- ◆ **Strengthened regional cooperation** and knowledge exchange through partnerships with local authorities and chambers of commerce.

Why it matters

By bringing technology suppliers, financial institutions and farmers together in one marketplace, the project builds a self-sustaining local market for water-saving irrigation – a decisive step for climate resilience in the water-stressed Ferghana Valley.

5

Agro-Caravan trade fairs held

1,275+

Farmers reached at trade fairs

€145k+

Reported supplier turnover generated

36

Companies & financial institutions engaged

Green Homes Central Asia Initiative — building healthy, climate-resilient homes

Expanding energy-efficient housing to reduce emissions and enhance living conditions in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

TAJIKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

LEAD & PARTNERS

The **Groupe Énergies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités (GERES)**, in partnership with **CAMP Alatoo**, achieved strong results in promoting low-energy housing and energy-efficient renovation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Key Achievements

- ◆ **A total of 1,040 individuals across households** — 50% women and 35% vulnerable groups — adopted low-energy consumption (LEC) housing and energy-efficient retrofit practices.

◆ Tajikistan

- 154 households joined the initiative, with agreements signed for 144 LEC houses.
- Estimated mitigation potential of approximately 308 tCO₂e annually.
- Capacity building in green housing and energy-efficient finance for 8 staff from 2 design institutes and 16 staff from 3 financial institutions.

◆ Kyrgyzstan

- 27 homes completed thermal modernization works, improving indoor comfort and reducing heating needs.
- Developed 5 standard energy-efficient house designs and practical tools — such as an energy-saving calculator — for wider adoption.

1,040

Individuals adopting LEC housing & retrofits

144

LEC house agreements signed in Tajikistan

27

Homes thermally modernized in Kyrgyzstan

~308

tCO₂e annual mitigation potential (Tajikistan)

Bridging the gaps of climate finance in Central Asia

A three-pronged approach to advance climate finance ecosystems: policy frameworks, institutional capacity and investment mobilization.

UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

LEAD & PARTNERS

The **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan** and the **Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic**, made substantial progress in strengthening climate finance systems across both countries.

Key Achievements

- ◆ **In-depth Climate Finance Gap Assessment and Action Plan** conducted for each country, identifying major barriers to meeting climate targets under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and reaching carbon neutrality.
- ◆ **Policy recommendations formulated** to strengthen sustainable finance systems — including green taxonomies, ESG disclosure frameworks, blended finance mechanisms and risk-sharing instruments.
- ◆ **Capacity development for 85 financial experts** on ESG reporting, environmental and social risk management, and sustainable finance tools — with a comprehensive booklet produced as a lasting reference resource.
- ◆ **Key green and sustainable finance instruments designed and structured**, with potential to mobilize at least \$100 million.

GREEN & SUSTAINABLE FINANCE INSTRUMENTS STRUCTURED

Kyrgyz Republic

- **Green Bonds** structured with Aiyl Bank / A-Bank.
- **Sovereign Green Bonds** developed with the Ministry of Finance.

Uzbekistan

- **Sustainable Bonds** structured with the Business Development Bank.
- **Green Financing Facilities** developed with Agrobank.

\$100M+

Green finance potential mobilized

85

Financial experts trained on ESG & risk

2

National Climate Finance Gap Assessments

4

Bond & financing instruments structured

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The Small Grants and Climate Innovation Facility (SGCIF) was launched in early 2025 to increase population resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions in Central Asia.

The facility is part of the “Climate, Energy and Water Security in Central Asia” (CEW-CA) programme of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which aims to strengthen the region’s resilience in the face of growing climate change.

The SGCIF is implemented within the framework of the “Climate Risk Management in Central Asia (CRM-CA)” programme, which is carried out by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Government and co-funded by UK International Development.

In 2025, five consortia were selected and received funding to scale up their activities in Central Asia.

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