



Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)



Annual Report

2015



Annual Report 2015

Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)

A welcome by Chairman of CAREC Board of Governors	3
An introduction by CAREC Executive Director	4
1 Highlights, changes and challenges	7
2 Progress review	13
2.1 Education for Sustainable Development Programme	14
2.2 Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Programme	18
2.3 Water Initiative Support Programme	24
2.4 Environmental Management & Policy Programme	30
2.5 Health and Environment Programme	34
2.6 Knowledge, Project & Resources Management Unit	38
2.7 CAREC Activities Support Unit	42
3 CAREC Country Offices	45
3.1 Kazakhstan	46
3.2 Kyrgyzstan	50
3.3 Tajikistan	54
3.4 Turkmenistan	58
3.5 Uzbekistan	60
4 CAREC in 2016	65
5 Financial Statement	67
Annexes	
Annex 1 CAREC projects in 2015	69
Annex 2 List of publications	70
Annex 3 List of acronyms and abbreviations	72



Dear colleagues,

I welcome you on behalf of the Board of Governors of the Central Asian Regional Environmental Center!

Established 15 years ago jointly by the countries of the region, the Commission of the European Communities and the UN Development Programme, thanks to its vigorous work CAREC has emerged into one of the leading regional organizations of international character.

The data and expertise on environmental protection within the region collected and analyzed by the Center in the course of its operations significantly expanded the thematic knowhow. CAREC accumulates knowledge to ensure effective implementation of projects based on methodologies, applied practices and approaches formulated during its target interventions. Within the frame-work of its project and pilot activities the Center endeavors all effort to forge a management regime fostering sustainable development via dynamic regional collaboration among the Central Asian countries and engagement of NGOs and civil society as key stakeholders.

Striving towards high professionalism of its staff and expanding its institutional and technical capacity, CAREC has been successfully transforming into a truly regional cooperation platform.

During the recent years, the Center's work has undergone significant changes. CAREC's current institutional and operational arrangement is distinguished by perseverance, efficiency and reliance, while its legal framework conforms to all international standards. Generation of new knowledge and, likewise, creation of tools and models guaranteeing effective execution of pro-jects will support CAREC in achieving its main goal – assisting environmental wellbeing and sustainable development of the Central Asia Region.

*Mr Mukhammet Durikov,
Chairperson of CAREC Board of Governors,
Acting Director of the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna
of the Ministry of Nature Conservation of Turkmenistan*



CAREC Knowledge Hub and Regional Cooperation Platform

Next year the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. Since its establishment, CAREC has emerged from a purely donor-led entity into a self-sustaining and vibrant regional platform linking Central Asian countries. Since 2013, the Center has been working hard towards the ambitious goal of becoming an environmental knowledge hub in the region. The 2020 CAREC Strategic Development Plan and CAREC Change Concept became the foundation of achieving that. As of today, the Center has built up its human, institutional and technical capacity ensuring successful implementation of its mandate as a regional cooperation shop and its new role of the knowledge hub.

CAREC programmes have matured both as knowledge-generating nodes and effective project implementing tools. Thanks to forging methodological and instrumental models and approaches within the framework of its multifaceted and cross-disciplinary projects, CAREC has become a true knowledge producer. Interactions with local communities made the Center

the keeper of locally focused knowledge. Collaboration with international partners and think tanks gave it access to modern sources of cutting-edge expertise. CAREC has been making outstanding effort to provide access to know-how and information produced internally and accumulated from external sources. CAREC's Knowledge, Project & Resources Management (KPRM) Unit, the knowledge platform of the corporate web portal and the annual Central Asian Leadership Program are now the key elements of the Center's knowledge hub agenda.

CAREC has been maintaining and reinforcing its regional cooperation mandate via participation in and support of regional working groups, regional projects and collaboration with partner regional agents. The initiative pioneered in 2015 became one of the milestones of the overarching regional cooperation – regional organizations jointly formulated their vision of regional alliance and operations. The ownership of, commitment to and responsibility for the results of their joint endeavours brought regional cooperation to a totally new level.

Intellectual, technical and institutional outcomes and achievements which the Center was able to generate in 2015 are no less than striking and greatly contribute to the fulfillment of CAREC-2020 strategic plans

2015 was hallmarked by new large-scale megaprojects of multidimensional and interprogram nature. During this year, CAREC has mobilized around 25 mln USD for its interventions during the next 5 years. The Center's annual budget increased from 1-1.2 to 4-5 mln USD. Such megaprojects' philosophy also underwent significant change, and is now molded by more inclusive, structured and integrated approaches as to project planning, implementation and monitoring.

During the reporting period, CAREC has achieved notable institutional progress – organizational changes fully reflect the vision proclaimed within the corporate Change Concept. The current corporate structure is sustainable, efficient and reliable. CAREC's legal framework is up-to-date and complies with the international standards.

During the running year, CAREC has been taking steps to consolidate the voices and positions of NGO's as well as to enhance their role in environmental governance on local, national, regional, and international levels. The defining principle of CAREC's work is that non-governmental sector and the civil society at large should be the key sustainable development constituents. Hence, inclusive, open and participatory systems must be in place at all management levels. The Center will strive to maintain its target efforts via mandated project and pilot activities fostering corresponding governance regimes.

This report demonstrates and details CAREC's national and regional programmatic and institutional efforts implemented as per the organization's mandate. Intellectual, technical and institutional outcomes and achievements which the Center was able to generate in 2015 are no less than striking and greatly contribute to the fulfillment of CAREC-2020 strategic plans. CAREC has been active in all five Central Asian states, while its country offices have been resolute and cohesive in promoting environmental cooperation in both regional and national formats.

In the coming year of 2016, CAREC will take steps to undergo audit and registration as an international entity. As always, it will strive towards highest quality. The Center will also continue devoting its financial, institutional and other resources to support capacity building of its staff, experts and partners.

Activities devoted to CAREC's Anniversary will take place throughout the whole 2016. Their calendar is already in place and has been communicated to all partners. Their main objective will be to highlight CAREC's role and achievements in the sphere of regional environmental cooperation, present opportunities for advancing collaboration in the future and to promote the models and tools developed by CAREC.

*Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev,
Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia
Executive Director*

1 Highlights, changes and challenges

«Rather than bringing technical knowledge from abroad, capacity development is an accumulative learning by exercise. It is not just a process of absorbing information and skills brought by experts, but one of assuming responsibilities and being able to adapt existing knowledge and to absorb new knowledge in order to respond better to local circumstances...»

*Advice emerging from
2015 UN-Water Zaragoza Conference
on implementation of water-related
Sustainable Development Goals*



Discussion on the strategic development of CAREC offices and launch mega projects, CAREC Development Day, October 2015

The quote above mirrors the general approach pursued by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC/Center) in its work and development. Operating in a constantly changing environment, the Center, as any other organization, is forced to respond and adapt by advancing its internal procedures and frameworks.

It will not be far-fetched to call 2015 the year of true breakthroughs and changes, as the long-term Cen-ter's efforts to fulfill its mission, forge partnerships and progress institutionally all brought about specific results.

In particular, steps to **enhance partner collaboration**, especially regional actors like the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) and Interstate Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC) helped CAREC to gain recognition of its regional mandate and capacities. As the result, the Center is now acknowledged as a professional executive agency and/or partner within the regional components of large development initiatives, such as by CAMP4ASB and CACILM II. Recognition of CAREC's potency and skills to facilitate regional processes evolved into support of its interventions and initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation of regional organizations, launch of a special project to boost water diplomacy in Central Asia and a megaproject on building a framework linking water resources management, thematic education for professionals and development of cooperation between them and local water users in Central Asia (CA). Negotiations to assist other regional dialogues in CA are also currently underway.

Highlights, changes and challenges

This year CAREC, among other things, continued its activities to foster interaction with non-profit environmental organizations as well as business. The Samsung Corporation has joined CAREC's lead, the dialogue between CAREC and the Aarhus Centers in all 5 Central Asian Countries (CAC) has been launched, advisory meetings with NGOs have taken place in all CAREC Country Offices (CO), representatives of environmental and business organizations are regularly involved in CAREC's thematic events.

CAREC is becoming increasingly **engaged in environmental conventions** in the Central Asian Region (CAR). In particular, within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) the Center is systemically supporting the process of preparing CACs for the Conference of Parties (COP-21) scheduled to take place in Paris later this year. For example, it hosted the Central Asian Climate Change Focal Points Networking Meeting as well as organized several other regional stakeholder forums. Within the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UN CCD), CAREC drafted the first target regional report on Central Asia, supported the process of drafting Turkmenistan's national thematic report, promoted the UN CCD mainstreaming in Turkmenistan's National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, collected and presented proposals from Central Asian NGOs at the UN CCD CoP-12 in Ankara to name just a few. CAREC offered itself as a platform to coordinate the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in CA as well as to exchange information with the aim of disaster risk reduction.

In 2015, CAREC took all effort to **streamline participation of Central Asian countries in international processes**. In particular, it supported CACs preparation for the upcoming Paris CoP and the Covenant of Mayors Initiative in Central Asia, assisted in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), mobilized and trained members of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Groups within the framework of promoting the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and environmental indicators. CAREC reports at international forums, such as the 5th High-Level Meeting on EU and CA Environmental and Water Cooperation in Milan, Geo Berlin and Water and Good Neighbourhood conferences in Berlin, World Water Week in Stockholm, World Water Forum in Seoul, etc. promote dissemination of knowledge about Central Asia as well as generate new development opportunities.

Gradually and steadily, CAREC expands its agenda in Afghanistan. In 2015, the number of Afghan participants in the annual Central Asian Leadership Program hosted by CAREC has increased twofold. The year 2015 was also marked by the launch of a large-scale USAID-sponsored 5-year Smart Waters Project, which includes setting up a project office in Afghanistan to implement project interventions comparable to these planned for Central Asian countries.

Implementation of **pilot technical projects** is an integral component of advancing new and more efficient technologies and rational approaches to using natural resources on the local level. Examples of such projects executed in 2015 are numerous: installation of an automated water-accounting system with a built-in water-efficient irrigation scheme, drip irrigation systems, solar fruit dryers, procurement of tractors for joint cleaning of irrigational canals in remote mountainous areas, etc. It should be noted that such actions in transboundary watersheds via small basin councils (SBC) promote constructive relations between communities of riparian states and mitigate conflicts. In order to promote new technologies and rational consumption of natural resources along the national vertical and regional horizontal axes, CAREC has been organizing demo-tours to pilot areas, and in this sense 2015 was no exception.



Participants of the 1st Meeting of Regional Organizations. Almaty, May 2015

CAREC is becoming increasingly engaged in environmental conventions in the Central Asian Region (CAR). In particular, within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) the Center is systemically supporting the process of preparing CACs for the Conference of Parties (COP-21) scheduled to take place in Paris later this year

Highlights, changes and challenges

Highlights, changes and challenges

The projects described above and models applied within the framework of their execution are **received by local partners with gratitude**. Thus, during 2015 CAREC was awarded several appreciation diplomas and thank-you letters on behalf of national partners, like the Ministry of Agriculture & Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan “for contribution to the development and strengthening of cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in the sphere of water resources use in Chu-Talas transboundary river basin”, Ministry for Nature Protection of Turkmenistan for assisting its ISDC chairmanship.

Strengthening the role of regional organizations and platforms in Central Asia.

In 2015, special attention was paid to forging a joint platform for regional organizations to allow long-term consolidated planning, furthering coordinated regional and national interventions and shared contacts with the donor community.

In this respect, in 2015 the Center aided the organization and holding of the 1st ISDC Meeting in Turkmenistan and upgrading of its webpage. Jointly with the IFAS Executive Council, 2 two-day meetings of regional organizations were held in Almaty and brought together representatives of IFAS Executive Council, ICWC Information Research Center, ISDC Information Research Center, ICWC Secretariat, RCH, Amu Darya and Syr Darya Basin Water Management Organizations, and CAREC. The closing sessions of both events served as platforms allowing dialogue, information and news exchange among regional and international actors as well as provided them with an opportunity to discuss joint actions. As the result of the first meeting, the participants agreed on priority cooperation avenues and, likewise, the need to develop a long-term regional vision and build the capacity of their staff. The second meeting allowed the delegates to learn about CAREC’s experience of managing regional projects, including from the financial perspective, opportunities for effective coordination of their interventions in 5 CACs and interactions with donors.

Realizing the importance of executing development projects based on **fundamental scientific knowledge**, in 2015 the Center continued to expand its intellectual capacity and linkages with academic and research entities. To this end, CAREC carries on active investigation and mainstreaming of various economic techniques and models of valuating ecosystem services (ES) targeting their subsequent integration on different levels – from regional/basin to national. The Center also assists capacity building of its academic partners by way of designing new training/ educational modules and enhancing teacher qualifications. This is vital to ensure comprehension of human-driven effects on nature by the young generation and academic professionals alike.

Professional and research competencies of CAREC staff also continue growing. This year, they published more than 15 thematic papers on most urgent environmental issues (see the list in Appendix 1).

During the reporting period, the Center also took further steps to enhance its corporate online platform (www.carececo.org), which – aside from information on CAREC’s projects and activities – includes several thematic websites (www.riverb.net, www.iwebtempus.kz, www.led-ca.net and www.caeelp.org). 2015 saw the launch of their English-language versions. In addition, CAREC has been supporting the GIZ Knowledge Link Initiative (KLINK) uniting a wide spectrum of organizations and their expertise on natural resources management in Central Asia.

The corporate achievements described above became possible thanks to **CAREC’s institutional development** and enhancement of its internal systems and processes – the Center’s regional mandate and nature of interventions call for continual improvement of operation mechanisms.

In 2015, CAREC also proceeded with amending its structure to optimize staff duties and reduce its non-expert (administrative) workforce. To ensure strategic orientation of its progress and sustainability of internal reforms CAREC restored its Public Advisory Board as well as established an Advisory Group, the latter responsible for such issues as development and mobilization of resources, implementation of regional megaprojects and educational programs, training and capacity building. Two new divisions – Knowledge, Project & Resources Management Unit and CAREC Activities Support Unit – were built into CAREC framework.

Staff capacity building remains one of the major corporate priorities. During 2015, a number of internal thematic trainings, e.g. a seminar on Sustainable Development Goals and CAREC’s role in promoting them in Central Asia, took place. Several employees of CAREC Head Office (HO) and COs took part in international educational programs at Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) in Halle (Germany), European Academy for Taxes, Economy and Law (Berlin), International Center of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), Beijing Normal University, Aberystwith University (the UK) as well as participated in several UNEP programs and the Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU) International Leadership Program.

During the reporting period, CAREC was able to secure office space for all its country offices on the premises of its national partners, updated all its internal guidelines and procedures, including these related to accounting, knowledge management, public relations, project execution, partnerships, mobilization of resources, human resources, procurement, etc.

Staff capacity building remains one of the major corporate priorities. During 2015, a number of internal thematic trainings, e.g. a seminar on Sustainable Development Goals and CAREC’s role in promoting them in Central Asia, took place

Progress review

Progress review

CAREC is becoming increasingly perceived not only as an innovation in the institutional sense, but also as a recognized platform supporting regional collaboration, initiating and implementing advanced projects in Central Asia, and as an incubator of breakthrough programs, novel knowledge and skills.

In the course of 2015, the Center has worked on 27 projects, 17 of which were of regional character. Out of their total number, 13 projects were launched this year in partnership with the USAID, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Federal Environment Protection Department of Switzerland (FOEN), OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, WB, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia Company (see the list of projects in Appendix 1).

In 2015, CAREC continued its environmental and development interventions on all levels based on multilateral cooperation, promoted introduction of knowledge-based tools ensuring effective interaction of partners in the CAR within 5 thematic programmes:

- I. environmental management and policy;
- II. water initiatives support;
- III. climate change and sustainable energy;
- IV. education for sustainable development;
- V. health and environment.

The Health & Environment Programme launched this year is just starting its fully-fledged operation in the following thematic areas: water sanitation and hygiene, climate change, air pollution (see appropriate section below).



The 1st meeting of regional organizations, CAREC Head office, May 2015

Education for Sustainable Development Programme

During the reporting period, the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme carried on its activities on advancing “green” knowledge, skills and competences for sustainable development among teachers, young leaders, local- and national-level civil servants as well as civil society in all CACs.

Outcomes and achievements

- Strengthened cross-disciplinary and interagency cooperation in CA within the framework of the following projects: 6th Central Asian Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALPESD/CALP) in partnership with UNEP, OSCE, the government of Norway, projects within the Covenant of Mayors – East (CoMo East) EU Initiative and the EC I-WEB TEMPUS Programme;
- Recognition by partners and donors demonstrated by the increased number of official applications to participate in CALP on behalf of CACs state agencies as well as offers from various partner organizations to implement new projects (UNDP, Samsung);
- Acknowledgement of CALP importance by its alumni (feedback and appreciation letters);
- Expanded interprogram activities in the sphere of education and capacity building.

Currently, the ESD Programme is executing 5 educational and capacity-building projects on different levels of the education system, including vocational secondary, higher and informal segments.

On September 14-22, 2015, with the assistance of UNEP, the government of Norway and the OSCE Programme Office in Astana CAREC held the 6th CALP on Environment for Sustainable Development. This year witnessed the record number of applications (95), out of which 35 leaders from 5 CACs and Afghanistan were competitively selected for participation. Of them, more than 50% were civil servants. This year the training agenda focused on SDGs and their implementation in Central Asia and Afghanistan, importance of cooperation of international and regional organizations, water, energy, health, gender and “green economy” themes.

In total, 155 young leaders from CACs and Afghanistan have been already trained within CALPESD during the 5 years of its existence, and they have already created a regional network of sustainable development and environmental young specialists.

CAREC’s ESD Programme also succeeded in expanding the “Water, Education and Business» (I-WEB) Project of the EU TEMPUS Programme from the national to the regional and transboundary formats. It became possible thanks to the development and integration of the project website (www.iwebtempus.kz) into CAREC Knowledge Online Portal. Full engagement in the project of the Center’s management and the experts of CAREC WIS Programme as well as a number of Central Asian experts, including in the drafting of several chapters on transboundary regional water cooperation for the IWRM manual for higher educational establishments of Kazakhstan – all facilitated the process. The Manual is already available on the project website in Russian and English; its translation into Kazakh is underway.

Progress review

“...the Covenant of Mayors – East” is an initiative uniting people, first of all, by way of access via signatories to financial and other tools of implementing energy-efficient consumption and transition to “green” energy...”

*Ms. Aurelia Bouchez,
Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to the RK*

To ensure multiplicity, distribution and sustainability of project outcomes in Central Asia and beyond the Final Regional Conference was held in Almaty in September 2015.

CAREC serves as the CoMo – East Central Asian focal point and coordinates target interventions in all CACs to raise awareness and build the capacity of local authorities and energy managers of signatory cities.

As of today, 14 Central Asian cities/towns have already acceded to the Covenant, 4 Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) have been drafted, 2 of which (for the town of Somoniyon in Tajikistan and the city of Taraz in Kazakhstan) have been already approved by the EC and are available on the project website (www.soglasheniemerov.eu). In the course of 2015, more than 150 energy experts and managers from CACs underwent thematic training via local consultations, technical trainings and seminars.

In June this year, in cooperation with the EU CAREC held the **Covenant of Mayors – East High-Level Forum** attended by more than 75 delegates of various partner and stakeholder organizations, including the European Commission, representatives of a number of embassies, Ms. Aurelia



Presidium of the Covenant of Mayors – East High-Level Forum. June 26, 2015

Buschez, Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan and delegation staff, international experts working within the Covenant of Mayors – East Initiative, deputies of the Mazhilis⁶ of the RK Parliament, city akims⁷, energy managers, national coordinators, CoMo – East supporters, etc. The event became a true interagency regional venue to share experiences and best practices among CAC stakeholders working in the fields of energy efficiency, sustainable energy, and “green growth”.

The Samsung Service Academy Project is a vivid example of successful collaboration with the business community. It is carried out by CAREC in Uzbekistan and aims to provide supplementary education to students of national IT colleges via the establishment of an academy to service modern Samsung equipment, installation of equipment for hands-on training and teaching IT-students applied skills and competencies in the sphere of modern IT.

⁶ Transl. note. “Mazhilis” – the lower chamber of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan consisting of 107 elected representatives.

⁷ Transl. note. “Akim” – head of the local governance (akimat) body in the RK.



Education for Sustainable Development Programme



Participants of the 6th Central Asian Leadership Program on the opening day, September 14, 2015

CAREC's input into the project is manifested in "green" knowledge, skills and competences on sustainable development. To make the project a reality, the Center has been closely working with the Ministry of Higher & Professional Education of the RU, Tashkent Information Technology Professional College (TITPC), Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan and the Samsung Inc. In particular, the custom-produced academic course ("Ecology, Environment Protection and Sustainable Development") and the Central Asian Green Pack are planned to be utilized within the project. The official launch of the project and a thematic round table took place in Tashkent June 6, 2015. The formal opening of the Samsung Service Academy and a target training for teachers of Uzbek colleges is scheduled for November 27-28, 2015.

Another cross-program CAREC/UNDP joint Project ("Capacity Building on Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Looking Beyond 2015") targeting Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is currently under implementation. It will aim to build the capacity of national partners in achieving SD by way of implementing a strategy promoting the development of poor social groups and supporting the private sector as well as enhancing dialogue and knowledge exchange within the Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs implementation in region.

Outlook

Strategic focus areas of the ESD Programme include CALPESD, capacity building of target groups, before all decision- and policy-makers, within the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs until 2030, interprogram collaboration and joint execution of the Smart Waters Project ("Capacity Building & Academic Exchange" Component), engaging the private sector and mainstreaming "green" skills, knowledge, competencies, methodologies and materials within the education and training systems in Central Asia and Afghanistan.



Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the representatives of the Samsung Inc., TITPC and the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, June 6, 2015

The **Samsung Service Academy Project** is a vivid example of successful collaboration with the business community. It is carried out by CAREC in Uzbekistan and aims to provide supplementary education to students of national IT colleges

Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Programme

Extending support to CACs in formulating and implementing national policies on climate change and sustainable energy constitutes the main goal of CAREC Climate Change & Sustainable Energy (CCSE) Programme. Its core principles include technical assistance in the advancement of low-carbon economy and climatically sustainable future of Central Asian countries. Its priority tools include analytical and research works, capacity building and enhancing regional and global cooperation on climate change, sustainable development and sustainable energy.

In 2015, the Programme's team managed to generate around 300 000 USD within its news projects and consolidate the efforts of over 130 representatives of state and non-governmental organizations from CACs within national and regional events. Thanks to the CCSE Programme work, CAREC became the official member of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) – the executive body of the UN FCCC Secretariat on climate change funding and transfer of technology.

In 2015, the Programme's team managed to generate around 300 000 USD within its news projects and consolidate the efforts of over 130 representatives of state and non-governmental organizations from CACs within national and regional events

Outcomes and achievements

During the reporting period, together with CAREC COs CCSE Programme specialists successfully completed 2 projects on adaptation, including their national (Tajikistan)⁸ and regional dimensions⁹.

The EU regional Project "The Sustainable Energy Program in Central Asia" was successfully continued, while Programme staff rendered full technical and administrative support to the project's executive agency at the time of drafting national energy-efficiency programs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and within the framework of technical and economic assessment of pilot facilities (rural hospitals) in Uzbekistan.

In 2015, the CCSE Programme also launched several new projects like "Migration, Remittances, Adaptation and Climate Change Resilience in Dry and Semi-Dry Lands of Senegal and Tajikistan" (sponsored by IDRC and SDPI) and "Capacity Building and Enhancing Strategic Framework to Support Low-Carbon Development in Central Asian Countries" (sponsored by UNEP and KOICA). More information on the project in Tajikistan implemented jointly by the CCSE Programme and respective CAREC CO is presented in Text Insert 1.

⁸ The global initiative "Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies" (PRISE Project) is funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and supported by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan serves as CAREC's project partner in the Asian region.

⁹ The regional initiative of the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) is sponsored by the Ministry of Environment of Japan, Asian Development Bank, USAID and other development partners. CAREC serves as the APAN subregional focal point in Central Asia.

Progress review

The regional project "Capacity Building and Enhancing Strategic Framework to Support Low-Carbon Development in CAC" included a regional study "Energy efficiency assessment of household electrical appliances in Central Asia and policies for energy performance standards and labeling".

Considering the fact that 2015 is a historical year in the context of global climate change negotiations, since its early beginning CAREC, jointly with its international partners, launched a regional initiative on the preparation for the "Paris process" in Central Asia. To this end, a regional climate change conference was arranged jointly by APAN and CAREC in Almaty on February 3-4, 2015. The event focused on the progress in formulating national climate policies and tools on reducing GHG emissions, climate resilience and adaptation in CACs. The final conference document described shared regional priorities on adaptation and mitigation as well as target capacity building in the CAR.

An intermediate meeting of CACs representatives and CAREC took place June 3, 2015 in Bonn within the 42nd Meeting of UN FCCC subsidiaries. The Center presented the regional vision of CACs on the way to Paris CoP and once again confirmed its commitment to regional dialogue.



The CA Climate Change Focal Points and Expert Network Meeting. November 5-6, 2015, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Text Insert 1

Migration, Remittances, Adaptation and Climate Change Resilience in Dry and Semi-Dry Lands of Senegal and Tajikistan

The project's purpose is to investigate links between remittances and sustainability of dry and semi-dry countries (DSC). It entails a comparative analysis of data for Senegal and Tajikistan – two countries where remittances by migrants constitute the main source of income for population. Within the project, it is planned to create a database on improving social and economic policies of target countries to support migration and remittance systems as measures ensuring adaptation and long-term climatic resilience of semi-dry economies of Senegal and Tajikistan.

The research hypothesis is that ASCs economies are more resilient to climate risks in case migrant remittances are used as a means of long-term climate change resilience and adaptation.

Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Programme



The 2nd regional conference (November 5-6, 2015) became the logical continuation of the "Paris process" in Central Asia. Its main objectives included provision of a regional platform to exchange information and experience re assumed obligations on adaptation and GHG sequestration till 2030 within the INDCs, to analyze the efforts by CACs towards "green economy", low-carbon development and climate resilience. Much attention at the event was rendered to the preparation for the upcoming CoP-21 in Paris.

The "Paris process" in Central Asia will result in the participation of CACs representatives in the CoP-21 side-event on December 4, 2015 organized by CAREC and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC Europe) with the aim of informing the world community on national low-carbon development and adaptation policies and innovative practices in Central Asia (see Fig. 1).

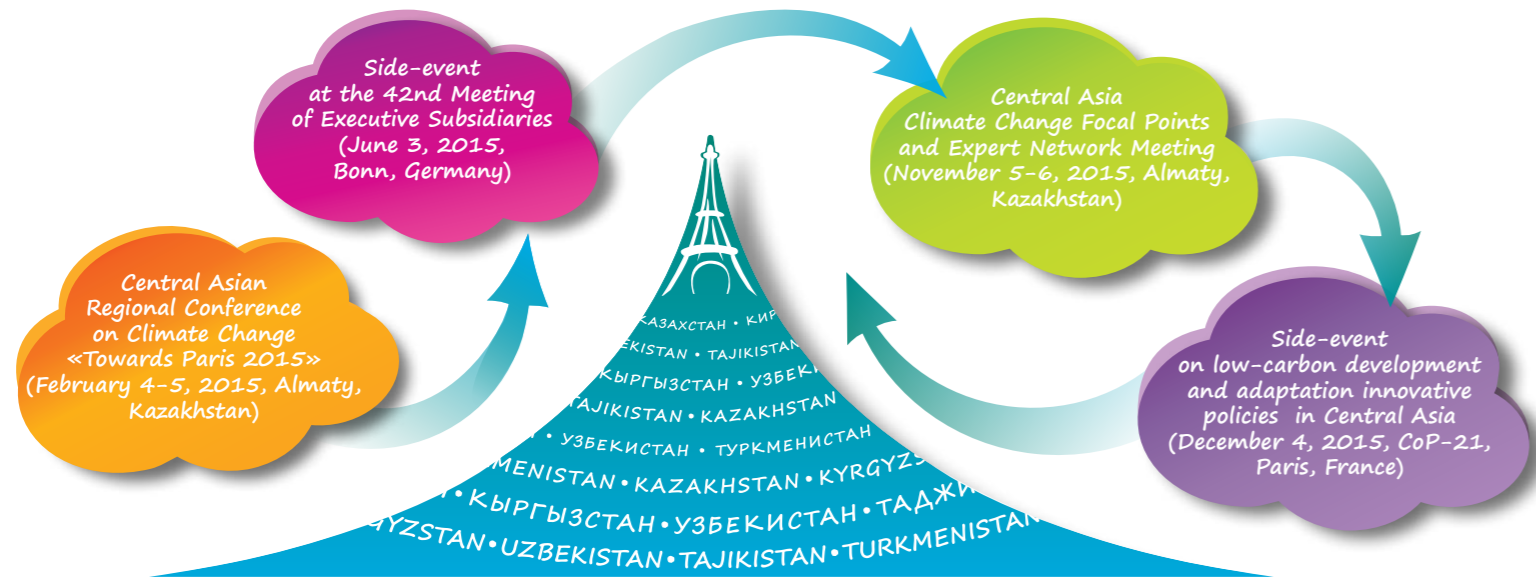


Fig. 1 "Paris process" in the Central Asian Region

Progress review

The 2015 Paris Conference and the so-called Paris Package will lay the foundation for subsequent drafting of the new global climate agreement, which is to take force in 2020. Therefore, in close cooperation with CACs CAREC will continue its regional events to elaborate target mechanisms and tools on reporting, funding and coordination of respective national policies.

Back to back with national experts and international partners, the CCSE Programme waged several analytical efforts consolidating CACs work on designing and implementing their national climate change policies:

- "Global climatic processes in CA: achievements, opportunities and expectations" (brief);
- "Towards Paris 2015: what the global climate agreement means for Central Asia?" (technical report);
- "Climate change adaptation in Central Asia: status, priorities, gaps and readiness to mainstream advanced adaptation measures" (analytical review);
- "SWOT analysis of social and economic development in the climate change context in Tajikistan" (analytical paper);
- "Energy efficiency assessment of household electrical appliances in Central Asia and policies for energy performance standards and labeling" (expert report).



The region of the Aral Sea, photo 2014

Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Programme



Outlook



Regional conference on preparations for the «Paris process.»Almaty, 3-4 February 2015

CAREC's CCSE Programme will continue to assist Central Asian states in expanding the regional dialogue on formulating a shared regional vision both anticipating the Paris Agreement and after its signing, in particular, by means of providing a regional platform building the capacity of target countries based on the "country-to-country" principle and via experience and competencies' exchange.

CAREC will maintain its assistance to CACs in implementing their national programs on low-carbon development and adaptation using the following instruments:

- conducting regional and national research as well as analytical works on water, energy and climatic issues; assisting CACs in drafting the Regional Water, Energy and Climate Awareness-Raising Strategy for stakeholder agencies/groups; elaborating methodologies and mainstreaming corresponding best practices;
- strengthening the information-sharing platform and building an open regional knowledge "clearing center" on water, energy and climatic issues;

- supporting CACs in the process of drafting their UN FCCC reports, i.e. National Communications (NC), Biennial Reports (BG), etc.;
- investigating urgent issues re the new global climatic agreement (climate funding and financial support of adaptation and mitigation efforts, coordination of disaster risk reduction (DDR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) actions);
- enhancing "south-south" cooperation and promoting regional interests within such global programs as the Nairobi Work Program on Adaptation and Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- implementing the CAMP4ASB Project (World Bank) with CAREC as its Secretariat;
- extending technical assistance to develop the Regional Water, Energy and Climate Awareness-Raising Strategy.



Participants of the thematic regional conference discuss energy efficiency of household electric appliances in Central Asian countries. Almaty, June 18, 2015

Water Initiatives Support Programme

The Water Initiatives Support (WIS) Programme pursues activities in 4 key areas of water resources management and development:

- (i) water quality and environment,
- (ii) transboundary cooperation,
- (iii) capacity building in the water sector and (iv) knowledge management and resource center on water resources management (WRM).

During the reporting period, Programme experts broadened their target interventions under 7 ongoing projects.

CAREC carries out long-term projects on regional (transboundary) water cooperation. The approach follows the key principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM). Simultaneously with project work, the WIS Programme specialists developed several innovative IWRM tools on transboundary cooperation fostering the nexus approach towards WRM.

In order to coordinate various and, at times competing WRM interests, the Programme implemented the basin management model in 4 river watersheds of Central Asia as a platform allowing water-related planning and administration. The collaborative basin planning (BP) model permitted transformation of the improved – thanks to the establishment of small basin councils (SBC) – institutional framework into a long-term vision of pilot basins' development. The principles of public inclusiveness and involvement are the cornerstones of both tools and allowed addressing a number of WRM issues, including irrigation. Thus, mainstreaming of BP principles and management in pilot basins fostered overall positive perception of IWRM principles both on the level of management authorities and among local communities.

The WIS Programme is systemically engaging in training and capacity building of specialists of basin organizations, NGOs and local community

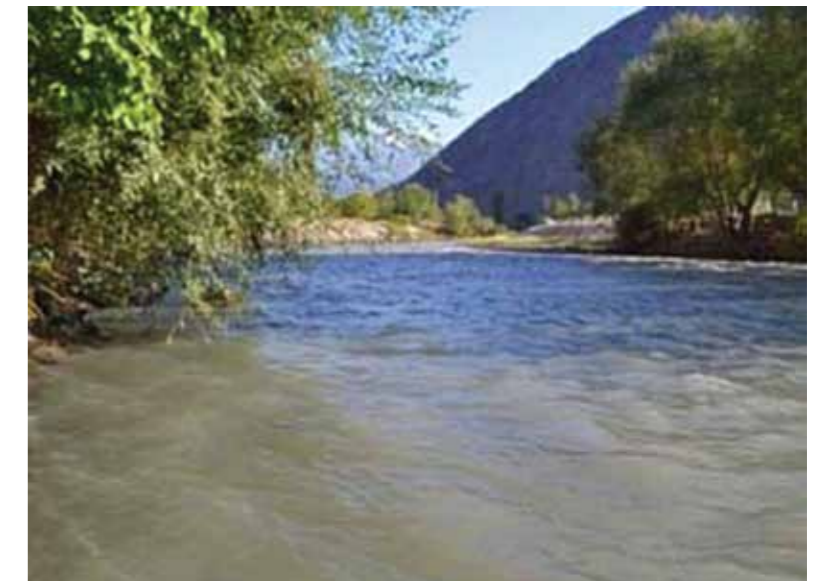
Progress review

Outcomes and achievements

Training and capacity building of water specialists and managers promotes mainstreaming of integrated science-based approaches in management of shared water resources also on the decision-making level. This is exactly the model to be utilized within the 5-year long **Smart Waters megaproject** planned for execution in all CACs and Afghanistan starting October 2015. It is centered around application of multilateral and cross-disciplinary WRM approaches and aims to forge effective linkages between water managers and experts from Central Asian countries and Afghanistan as well as to showcase the potential of the basin scheme and cooperation with academic institutions.

The WIS Programme is systemically engaging in **training and capacity building** of specialists of basin organizations, NGOs and local community. Thus, in April 2015 a series of practical innovative-format seminars were carried out – the experience of foreign countries alternated with presentations on key thematic issues by local experts, which allowed the audience to analyze them from different perspectives.

To fuse all the experience acquired in the course of multiple trainings, study tours and research activities the WIS Programme team initiated the development of a new model of disseminating knowledge and information, i.e. an online training course on basin planning. As of today, the structure and thematic content of the course have been finalized. It will be available to all stakeholders via CAREC Knowledge Portal.



Text Insert 2

Secretariat on the Tajik side of the Isfara River Basin

Sustainability is an important feature of target projects. During the reporting period, local communities in pilot areas independently initiated and implemented several activities aimed at enhancing the overall situation in respective basins. Kyrgyz- and Tajik-side SBCs in the Isfara River Basin started their operation in the fall of 2013. In June 2015, the Tajik side of the watershed decided to establish the SBC Secretariat. The local water management body provided the Secretariat with an office as well as appointed 2 its members. Currently, the Secretariat is actively working with local executive authorities responsible for implementing the basin action plan. Thus, relevant state agencies regularly inform the SBC Secretariat on the progress of target actions. The Secretariat's functions include organization of SBC meetings and facilitating contacts with the Kyrgyz colleagues without the engagement of CAREC project group.

Water Initiatives Support Programme

CAREC also acts as an innovator in mainstreaming ecosystem services payment (PES) schemes in the CAR. Application of corresponding economic tools in CACs has its own peculiarities and requires techniques' customizing individually for each country based on local conditions. Several CACs are already hosting works to map and economically value ESs. As a separate mechanism, PES can promote financial sustainability of measures within basin action plans. Corresponding interventions are already being executed by the WIS Programme experts jointly with CAREC's Environmental Management and Policy (EMP) Programme.



An irrigation canal, Isfara river

Application of these tools will allow economic analysis of planned actions in pilot areas, which, in its turn, will provide industry decision- and policy-makers with a series of economic indicators and an opportunity to account for ecosystem needs.

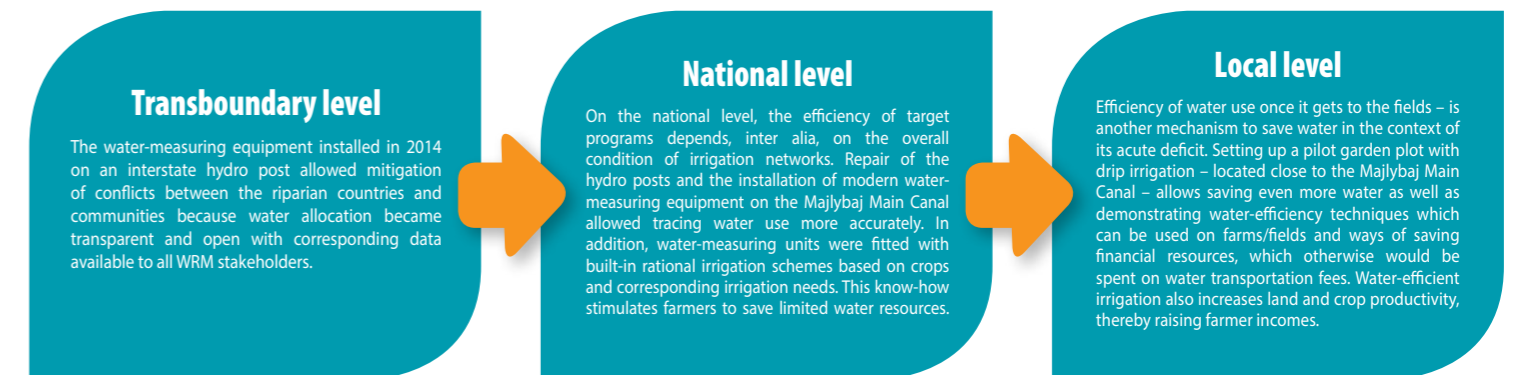
Networking and research. The Eurasian River Basin Portal (www.riverbp.net) continues to be an effective knowledge- and experience-sharing platform for water experts of the region. On daily basis, there are 220-250 visits to the website, and their count is constantly growing. Along with introducing innovative communications and media approaches by way of holding annual meetings and initiating thematic online discussions the WIS Programme supports active collaboration inside the regional academic network. In addition to forging opportunities for young scientists to advance their research skills, the Master Student Research Competition Project – also administered by the WIS Programme – helps to build a network of water specialists in different countries of the region who are open to cooperation and exchange of information.

Within the International High-Level Conference on the outcomes of the "Water for Life" International Decade of Actions 2005-2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, organized jointly with the IFAS EC, the WIS Programme experts held a side-event to disseminate the information about ongoing regional programs and active strategies of achieving SDGs in different CACs. In August of the same year, the Programme team reported on the results of CAREC target interventions within the World Water Week Exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden.



Test Insert 3 From transboundary level to farmer fields: a set of actions on effective water use in the Aspara River Basin

Already for 3 years, IWRM principles and measures to enhance water resources management have been underway in the Aspara River Watershed. This year, all planned pilot projects have been completed which allow unravelling the package of measures to improve WRM from the transboundary down to the farm level.



Water Initiatives Support Programme

Outlook

The WIS Programme will maintain its close and robust engagement in the 4 WRM fields mentioned above. Presently, the Programme team is occupied with designing a number of new projects on:

- (i) water quality,
- (ii) application of the cutting-edge WRM tools in the region
- (iii) capacity building, in particular, finalizing the training e-course on basin planning. It is, likewise, planned to develop a series of trainings on practical application of PES schemes in the CAR.



The transboundary river Aspara

The Programme actively promotes the principles of transparency and downward accountability – besides reporting to donors, each WIS project includes mechanisms requiring dissemination of information and accountability before local communities, which fosters confidence-based partnerships with project beneficiaries.

Next year, the WIS Programme team plans to continue its target steps to promote thematic economic tools (PES and cost-benefit analysis) ensuring sustainable implementation of basin plans.

Aside from that, the WIS Programme will strive to:

- support mainstreaming of IWRM and BP principles in Central Asia based on collaborative models;
- promote and apply the water-energy-agriculture-environment nexus;
- establish a knowledge center for regional, cross-sector and multi-level cooperation in CA;
- advance harmonization of WRM standards in CACs;
- strengthen water cooperation networking in the CAR;
- enhance cooperation among Central Asian regional organizations.



Launch of the innovative water accounting and water allocation system with a built-in rational irrigation module on the Majlybaj Main Canal (Aspara River). Dzhambul Region of Kazakhstan

Environmental Management & Policy Programme

The Environmental Management & Policy (EMP) Programme operates to assist CACs on improving environmental monitoring and control systems on local, national and regional levels. The initiatives and tools promoted within the Programme foster execution of national and regional development plans as well as aid target governments in fulfilling their obligations under multilateral agreements.

The two main areas of EMP Programme interventions include PES mainstreaming in target policies and developing reliable mechanisms of environmental control, monitoring and reporting.

EMP Programme continued its robust promotion of ecosystem services and tools for their economic valuation on national and local levels

Outcomes and achievements

Capacity building and strengthening linkages with CACs national partners. In 2015, the EMP Programme continued its efforts to strengthen collaboration with national state partners on improving environmental monitoring and data collection as per the UNECE indicators.

During the reporting period, the following projects sponsored by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Environment have been successfully completed:

- (i) the MONECA Component (Environmental Monitoring in CA) of the larger FLERMONECA Project (Forest and Biodiversity Governance, including Environmental Monitoring in CA) and
- (ii) the Project on drafting sections of National State-of-Environment Reports (NSoER). The corresponding actions resulted in the development of certain NSoER sections in 5 CACs, including their online placement within webpages of national government partners (as a rule, nature protection ministries and agencies).



The study tour to Europe for specialists of Central Asian countries. Austria, June 2015



Representatives of CAC government agencies during the study tour to European countries (June 22-26, 2015) held within the MONECA Component of the EC FLERMONECA Program

In general, in 2015 EMP Programme project activities included the following:

- support to national consultants in the process of developing environmental indicators and writing respective analytical reports, launch of thematic online resources to ensure open global access to metadata and indicators;
- trainings for CACs specialists with the involvement of experts from the Austrian Environmental Agency (UBA), organization of a study tour to European countries for representatives of state agencies on statistics, hydrometeorology and nature conservation to share the experiences on collecting environmental data and reporting;
- participation of EMP Programme experts in a series of international meetings by OECD, UNEP and UNECE in Paris, Istanbul and Geneva within Pan-European environmental monitoring frameworks. In order to prepare for these events, EMP Programme team conducted target consultations with stakeholders and published their outcomes and findings in several CACs;
- dissemination of information among a wide range of stakeholders via execution of analytical reports ("Regional synthesis. State of environment in Central Asia: illustrations on selected environmental issues and indicators", "The Cookbook: how to prepare a state-of-environment report", "Progress review of developing the Shared Environmental Information System in Central Asian countries") and a number of thematic maps.

2014 Environmental Management & Policy Programme



During the reporting period, the EMP Programme continued its robust promotion of ESs and tools for their economic valuation on national and local levels. The joint CAREC's project with the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) "Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services to Enhance Water Resources Management in Agriculture of Kazakhstan" was a component of a large-scale research program executed by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Within the initiative, data on water use and agricultural technologies was collected from local water management organizations, stakeholders and farmers. It was used to elaborate target scenarios of altering conventional land use practices and irrigation technologies for further review by local executive bodies, universities, public, farmer and water user associations. The scenarios and the data will be used to simulate most appropriate administrative measures to increase resources efficiency and maximize ES potential.

The project also included creation of an online database available via CAREC corporate website incorporating most of the data collected. The project, likewise, allowed assessing the role of women in local decision-making process as well as arming them additional economic capabilities via organization of trainings on economically efficient technologies of cultivating vegetables in hotbeds and drying of fruit.



In 2015, UNEP and CAREC completed another Project "Promoting Ecosystem Services in Macroeconomic and Sector Programs and Strategies in the Republic of Kazakhstan". Within the project, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota a macroeconomic model – allowing to develop recommendations on ESs valuation and accounting within national policies and programs – was elaborated and adapted specifically for the Aral Syr Darya basin using available social and economic data based on the general equilibrium model.

Strengthening interprogram activities. During the reporting period, the EMP Programme specialists closely cooperated with other CAREC divisions, in particular with the WIS Programme, on issues of ESs economic valuation, mapping and modeling.

Thus, within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network – for which CAREC serves as the focal point in Central Asia – the experts of the CCSE and EMP Programme drafted a chapter for a joint publication "Climate Change Adaptation in the Asia-Pacific Region" reviewing the status of adaptation measures in the CAR.

The UNDP Project "Capacity Building on Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Looking Beyond 2015" also fosters interprogram coordination of CAREC efforts in the spheres of IWRM, climate change, economic tools, ecosystem services, and gender mainstreaming with the aim of developing a comprehensive training module for mid-tier civil servants of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Outlook

Assistance to CACs in the course of designing and deploying environmental indicators recommended by the UNECE with the purpose of enhancing data collection systems for effective environmental monitoring, including in the light of the expected acceptance of UN SDG's by Central Asian countries – is a strategically important focus of the EMP Programme. This is done by means of mobilizing and training members of UNECE working groups on the Shared Environmental Information System.

Extending support to national partners on implementing UN environmental conventions via strengthening regional and cross-sector dialogues, attracting international thematic expertise and experience, capacity building and information dissemination will allow CACs promoting regional environmental interests as well voicing the joint regional position, including within global negotiations.

In 2016, the EMP Programme will continue to mainstream the innovative ES tools, already appraised in pilot areas, allowing to account for and value such services and related resources within sector-specific planning on local, regional and national levels.

Participation of the EMP Programme staff in CAREC's mega projects, like Smart Waters and CAMP4ASB, will guarantee application of the interprogram approach as well as ensure integrated use of knowledge and data accumulated within the Programme.

Health & Environment Programme



More than 80% of cases of infectious and non-infectious diseases in the world occur due to deteriorating environment – according to WHO data, about 1/4 of the global disease incidence is caused by ecological factors. Key environmental barriers to the development of all CACs are water supply challenges, climate change and air pollution.

The launch of the Health & Environment (HE) Programme was initiated by CAREC jointly with partner organizations in 2014. The Programme aims to identify links between human health and environment in the CAR context and to elaborate practical recommendations on enhancing public health.



The key purpose of the Programme is to reduce the incidence of diseases and mortality in the Central Asian region due to environmental factors. In order to do so, it is planned to hold early prevention events and influence sector-specific policy making on national and regional levels in all related fields, and by that to address the underlying causes and threats to human health already present or emerging due to changing environment. The Programme's concept was reviewed and approved by the 34th Meeting of CAREC Board of Governors.

Programme-specific interventions will be directed towards disease prevention, reduction of disease incidence and protection against diseases related to:

- low-quality water (sanitary and hygiene);
- climate change;
- air pollution.

In its work, the Programme will utilize the following approaches:

- **research and analyses:** assistance in identifying empirical links between anthropogenous environmental impacts and dynamics of common human diseases;
- **information efforts:** raising public and stakeholder awareness on the scale and graveness of human health challenges caused by deteriorating environment as well as dissemination of information on disease prevention both on national and regional levels;
- **enhancing cross-sector dialogue:** aiding close interaction of all stakeholders (environmental, public health, industrial and other actors) and dialogue among them to address shared challenges.



The Health & Environment Programme aims to identify links between human health and environment in the CAR context and to elaborate practical recommendations on enhancing public health

2015 Health & Environment Programme



Outcomes and achievements

The HE Programme Manager visited CACs to inform their state agencies, partner organizations and stakeholders on the new CAREC initiative. Corresponding discussion took place at designated working meetings.

Thus, in Turkmenistan 3 such meetings took place: with the representatives of the national Environmental Control Service, the Aarhus Centre of

Turkmenistan and the Information Center of the national Ministry of Health and Medical Industry. In Kazakhstan, the prospects of deploying the HE Programme were discussed with the director of the NGO "The Institute of Human Health", specialists of the Environmental Protection Information and Analysis Center with the Ministry of Energy (ME) of the RK and the head of the WHO mission in Kazakhstan.

In Kyrgyzstan, the HE Programme was presented within 6 working meetings with the representatives of the Department of Industrial Ecology and Radiation Safety of the national Environmental Control Service, the National Health Promotion Center, the Research and Production Association "Prevention Medicine", and a number of personal meetings with the head of the Health Care Department of the National Red Cross Society, staff of the Disease Prevention and Expertise Department of the Ministry of Health of the KR and the "Ergene" Public Foundation.

Corresponding meetings with the specialists of the Information and Analyses Department of the national Nature Protection Ministry, Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service and the Ministry of Health also took place in Uzbekistan. It is worth noting, that the HE Programme Manager is a member to the special working group drafting the National Health and Environment Program, to which Uzbekistan currently pays special attention.

Target presentation meetings with stakeholders in Tajikistan are scheduled for the end of 2015.

Outlook

Participants of the working meetings to officially present the new CAREC Health & Environment Programme pointed to the growing incidence of environment-caused diseases among the CAR populations. At the same time, according to them there is no evidence base or epidemiological data allowing to prove corresponding correlations. In this regard, in 2016 it is planned to launch the first special pilot project covering all CACs reflecting target national priorities and requirements of all countries in the region.



Knowledge, Projects & Resources Management Unit

The Knowledge, Projects & Resources Management (KPRM) Unit is an interprogram division tasked with ensuring effective knowledge and project management and streamlining corporate resource mobilization efforts. The Unit's actions promote the principle of the "single CAREC", i.e. all its divisions working in a coordinated and standardized manner using uniform principles and procedures, thus, allowing the Center to effectively implement its mandate.

In the second half of 2015, the Unit expanded its functions to include organizational support of CAREC BG and Public Advisory Board (PAB) meetings, execution of annual documents and analytical reports, human resources management and staff capacity building.

The Unit's actions promote the principle of the "single CAREC", i.e. all its divisions working in a coordinated and standardized manner using uniform principles and procedures, thus, allowing the Center to effectively implement its mandate

Outcomes and achievements

For the KPRM Unit 2015 has become a breakthrough year in many respects.

Resource mobilization. Interactions with donors underwent a significant change. In addition to the role of an actor within tender calls and competitions and bilateral negotiations, CAREC has become a regional partner recommended for and invited to projects and large-scale long-term regional programs, such as Smart Waters, CAMP4ASB, CACILM II, and the EC Water Cooperation Project.

In total, during the reporting period the Center put together and submitted 1.5 times fewer project proposals but signed the same number of contracts as in 2014 – 13 contracts with the overall budget exceeding 10 mln euros. Negotiations re 2 more megaprojects with the estimated budget of nearly 15 mln euros are almost completed and related contracts are undergoing pre-signing review.

Progress review

It is worth highlighting that several ongoing CAREC projects supported by GIZ and USAID aim to support the Center's institutional development and professional growth as well as to strengthen its regional mandate in the field of water and environmental cooperation in the CAR.

Information and knowledge management. During the reporting period, the KPRM Unit made an essential contribution to enhancing internal communications and awareness of external partners. Deployment of the corporate Intranet network and the CIP telephone system allowed building a uniform and convenient information and communications platform for 6 CAREC offices in 5 Central Asian countries. In the course of 2015, in order to raise partner awareness more than 80 news pieces in Russian and English were published on the corporate website, more than 90 news-feeds on the corporate Facebook account, and more than 110 Twitter posts were published. In addition, more than 15 "CAREC Today" e-mail information sheets and "CAREC Newsletters" were published. The KPRM Unit also developed and published CAREC Programmes' profiles, not to mention multiple project-related brochures.



Capacity building of CAREC staff remains one of the major corporate objectives and also falls within the KPRM responsibility. To this end, in 2015 the Unit specialists established a platform to hold internal seminars. It was already used for 7 such thematic trainings on: SDG implementation in Central Asia, ES valuation to improve WRM in agriculture of Kazakhstan, a seminar "How to awaken internal creativity and apply creative thinking in everyday work", etc.

The Unit is also successfully implementing the corporate institutional development policy. For example, in 2015 the tradition was laid to gather all CAREC staff – i.e. all employees of all CAREC COs – to discuss communication and strategic development issues in relation to which the KPRM Unit plays the key role. In October 2015, the "CAREC Development Day" and a special Smart Waters related seminar on effective communications among CAREC divisions were held at CAREC HO in Almaty. The events allowed to initiate strategic action planning in all country offices as well as formulate the strategic objectives of their interventions until 2020 and tactical tasks until 2017.

Knowledge, Projects & Resources Management Unit

CAREC's development as a uniform, harmoniously and effectively functioning mechanism is one of corporate priorities. The principle of the "single CAREC" means that each Office and Programme represents the Center as a whole and, thus, their staff have to possess the maximum possible necessary information and data. To ensure that, the KPRM Unit regularly updates and expands corporate online databases available across CAREC (projects and partners, corporate activities, project proposals, major international events, etc.).



The uniform corporate image, professional level of publications and PR-activities also support the "single CAREC" principle. During the reporting period, the standards of corporate publications and presentations were unified, and a designated PR-specialist is now responsible for all corporate info campaigns held by all CAREC COs.

Project management. Improving the quality of project administration is the most important task of the KPRM Unit, since it is project interventions, which constitute the primary Center's activity and product. High quality of project management fosters recognition of CAREC's capacities and competencies by its partners. In this respect, in 2015 (1) the Unit initiated collection of evaluation forms from donors on completed projects, (2) 3 CAREC employees underwent a training on the international standards of project management, including financial management, monitoring and evaluation at the European Academy for Taxes, Economy and Law (Germany), (3) a survey was held among CAREC employees on project management.

In order to enhance coordination among CAREC COs, CAREC/partner annual activities schedule form was developed and suggested for use, thanks to which it became possible to announce all such activities in due time at the corporate website: <http://CARECeco.org/events/kalendar-meropriyatiy-CAREC/>.



Outlook

In 2016, the KPRM Unit will continue its work on knowledge, project and resource management as well as its organizational development efforts to strengthen CAREC as the Central Asian Knowledge Hub.

In particular, next year the Unit plans to complete strategic planning in relation to CO and Programme development, to continue reinforcing partner linkages with the aim of resource mobilization, including searching for new funding sources, as well as to undergo the international certification on project management, monitoring and evaluation.

The KPRM Unit will, likewise, carry on informational and PR support of CAREC COs and Programmes, activities aimed at capacity building and professional development of the Center's staff. The Unit intends to strengthen its analytical component and cooperation with international research entities as well as corporate IT-development, including the deployment of the videoconferencing system and other technologies.

During the next year, the Unit staff will complete the development of the Project Management Guidelines allowing mainstreaming of corresponding standards in all CAREC divisions, as well as ensure access of all COs to special software to streamline and appropriately store project data and materials.



Team building exercise for CAREC staff, CAREC Development Day, October 2015

CAREC Activities Support Unit



The CAREC Activities Support (CAS) Unit was formed in December 2014 according to the corporate development strategy by merging the Executive Director Office and the Logistics and Maintenance Unit. Currently, the Unit consists of a Manager responsible for overall CAREC office administration and maintenance, document control, contracts and other legal and HR issues, a Logistics & Procurement Officer, an Administrative Assistant, a Receptionist, an IT-Specialist and technical staff.

The Unit's functions include administrative support and maintenance, human resources, legal assistance, management of corporate offices and premises, reception of CAREC guests and ensuring proper working conditions to all CAREC staff (including during internal and foreign business trips). The Unit also deals with all issues related to renting vacant CAREC offices and their servicing and, thus, supports the so-called CAREC Friends Group, which already includes such organizations as UNDP, GEF/SGP, GIZ and some others.

Outcomes and achievements

During the above-mentioned merger, 2 administrative positions – Office Manager and Infrastructure Manager – were cut, which did not cause any malfunction in CAREC operations as all corresponding duties were redistributed among the remaining CAS Unit staff.

According to 2020 CAREC Development Strategy, job duties of the staff of the KPRM and CAS Units were also amended. Coordination with CAREC BG and PAB were transferred to the KPRM Unit. The HR specialist – whose technical duties and duties related to supervising the work of the IT-Specialist were passed on to the CAS Unit Manager – was relocated to the KPRM Unit.

In order to ensure health of CAREC staff and promote a healthy lifestyle, in 2015 the CAS Unit set up a gym and introduced a medical insurance system. As planned, during the summer of 2015 the central heating system in CAREC building was completely replaced. In the future, the Unit intends to set up a basketball field and continue CAREC building upgrades, in a particular, to bring corporate working conditions in compliance with the international standards.

Outlook

Further, the Unit intends to continue the enhancement of all its procedures and systems to support CAREC corporate activities even more effectively.



In order to ensure health of CAREC staff and promote a healthy lifestyle, in 2015 the CAS Unit set up a gym and introduced a medical insurance system

CAREC

Country Offices

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan



CAREC CO in Kazakhstan



CAREC Country Office in Kazakhstan (CO Kz) was established just recently in 2014. During the reporting period, CO Kz enhanced its interactions with state departments and other stakeholders, including offices of national and international entities, which became possible thanks to its relocation to Astana. Currently, CO Kz is located in the Kazhydromet building of the Ministry of Energy of the RK.

The present activities of the CO are aimed at strengthening cooperation with state, non-governmental and business actors, development and deployment of its projects in accordance with the national goals and priorities as well as supporting CAREC regional initiatives. Besides, CO Kz participates in designing and carries out actions in areas of priority to Kazakhstan but with the account of the regional context. Thus, now CO Kz investigates possibilities of collaborating with the government of the RK within the Green Bridge Partnership Program (GBPM) and Kazakhstan's transition to low-carbon development.

Outcomes and achievements

CAREC CO Kz assisted broad public participation in the discussion of environmental issues, in particular, in relation to the Kazakhstan's NSoER. During meetings with the representatives of the ME of the RK and the National State Enterprise "Information and Analysis Center on Environmental Protection", it was decided to place the NSoER on the website of the ministry and allow online access to its materials.

The Office also contributed to the development of the information strategy and holding of the final national seminar in Astana within the UNEP/CAREC/ University of Minnesota (US) "Mainstreaming ecosystem services in sector and macroeconomic programs and strategies of the Republic of Kazakhstan" Project. Its main objective was to introduce tools of ES economic valuation in strategic national development programs.

CO Kz is an active participant of thematic capacity building and networking actions in the sphere of "green economy" (GE) and "green growth" (GG). In this regard, in particular, it is necessary to mention the Open World Program of the US Library of Congress (Green Economy theme) and the UNEP Green Economy Scholarship Program in CA and Mongolia at Beijing Normal University, which are both directed towards building the research capacity on environmentally friendly economy and nature conservation.

Presently, CO Kz is negotiating with UNEP re the Central Asian component of its Sustainable Production and Consumption Program and a number of other project proposals within the "Aral Sea Green Package" and "Building Sustainable Development Capacity in CA beyond 2015".



Workshop at the Center for Environmental Cooperation of ASEAN, Beijing, June 2015

CO Kazakhstan is an active participant of thematic capacity building and networking actions in the sphere of "green economy" and "green growth"

3.1 CAREC CO in Kazakhstan



Outlook

Kazakhstan declared its commitment to low-carbon development and transition to GE. Before all, it means low-carbon development of industrial and power sectors as well as respective re-orientation of management approaches to natural and water resources, waste, agriculture and consumption. Thus, the country is facing a hard task of reforming its administrative systems, environmental standards and technologies.

By rendering expert and organizational support to national partners, CO Kz has the potential of being directly involved in achieving these objectives in case of successful signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the ME of the RK and by becoming a member of the GBPM Charter. As of today, all issues concerning CAREC's membership in the Charter have been finalized, and all relevant document are expected to be signed in the nearest future.

To successfully complete the UNEP Green Economy Scholarship Program, CO Kz will continue its efforts on preparing the Kazakhstan Profile Report within the Component "South-South Cooperation in Central Asia and Mongolia: Knowledge Exchange, Inclusive GE and Eco-Friendly Civilization".



CO Kz will also continue promoting the "green growth" principles. Currently, CO Kz specialists are analyzing opportunities for long-term cooperation on climate change, conservation and education. To build up the expertise among state agencies, CO Kz has signed the Memorandum of Effective Cooperation, Knowledge & Experience Sharing with UN ESCAP. As per the Memorandum, it is planned to hold a special seminar on "green growth" issues with special attention to specific thematic mechanisms, tools and successful practices already utilized in CACs.

Due to CAREC's involvement in water resources and energy efficiency, one more important task of CO Kz includes drafting of CAREC Green Development Concept based on environmental monitoring and assessment indicators.



Green Economy Fellows Program, participants from Central Asia, Mongolia and China

Kazakhstan declared its commitment to low-carbon development and transition to "green economy"

CAREC CO in Kyrgyzstan



During 2015, CAREC Country Office in Kyrgyzstan (CO Krg) has been working within CAREC's mandate in the Kyrgyz Republic and rendered assistance to state agencies, NGOs, business and other stakeholders on environmental protection and sustainable development. CO Krg took effort to enhance partner communications with thematic national and civil society agents, international and regional agencies as well as strengthened coordination of its own activities with CAREC HO agenda to ensure successful performance of the corporate mission as per the 2020 CAREC Strategy and CAREC Concept of Cooperation with CA NGOs.

Outcomes and achievements

Development of partnerships with state agencies manifested itself in joint drafting of 2014-2017 National Sustainable Development of the KR and implementation of the action plan on integrated waste management on national and municipal levels. As government subcontractor, CO Krg also facilitated drafting of the National Report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety with the involvement of NGO experts.

CO Krg also took part in the writing of the Kyrgyzstan NSoER for 2011-2014 within the MONECA Component of the FLERMONECA Project.

To promote and implement the EC Covenant of Mayors Initiative on sustainable energy development of cities, CO Krg engaged in regular contacts with national towns/cities. As the result, the towns of Shopokov and Orlovka acceded to the Covenant. Signatory cities have been assisted in designing their SEAP's with regular involvement of volunteer field-specific experts and students.

CO Krg is actively involved in the Climatic Dialogue Platform and the Climate Network of Kyrgyzstan.

The CO has also established cooperation with the Aarhus Centres in Kyrgyzstan. So, for example, a bilateral agreement between CAREC CO Krg and the Aarhus Centre in Bishkek on collaboration to implement the Development Strategy within the framework of the Aarhus Convention was signed.

Within the Project "Promotion of Water-Related Ecosystem Services Concept in CA" sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Climate of Norway, CO Krg organized a study tour to the Chon-Aksuhu River Basin to acquaint delegation participants with the outcomes of the already completed (2011-2014) Project "Mainstreaming PES Mechanisms and Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation" (REDD+) in target pilot areas of Issyk-Kul Region and Zerger Ajyl Aimak⁶ of Uzgen district.

⁶ Transl. note. "Ajyl Ajmak" – a community-level governance body in Kyrgyzstan.

As the result of partner collaboration with international organizations in Kyrgyzstan (UNDP, GIZ, FAO), a CAREC expert was included in the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) Working Group to assess opportunities to mainstream PES in national legislation. CO Krg is also taking effort to enhance its cooperation with UNDP to build the capacity of key stakeholders on economic ES valuation.

During the reporting period, one of the CO Krg specialists became a member of the Forestry Development Advisory Council of the KR and the Independent Forest Platform to aid public and local community participation in joint forest management within the 2025 Forestry Development Concept.

As to resource mobilization, continual effort is being taken to establish target contacts, discuss cooperation avenues, and design and submit new project proposals.



A meeting with NGO representatives to discuss cooperation opportunities. Bishkek, May 8, 2015

3.2 CAREC CO in Kyrgyzstan



Outlook

During the next year, CO Krg is planning to pursue the following activities:

- assistance in the implementation of the action plans within 2014-2017 National Sustainable Development Strategy of the KR and 2020 Environmental Safety Concept of Kyrgyzstan;
- advancing and implementing the CoMo – East Initiative by means of supporting signatory cities;

During the reporting period, one of the CO Kyrgyzstan specialists became a member of the Forestry Development Advisory Council of the KR and the Independent Forest Platform to aid public and local community participation in joint forest management within the 2025 Forestry Development Concept

- cooperation within the Strategy and Action Plan to develop Aarhus Centres activities in Kyrgyzstan for 2015-2018;
- in partnership with the national SAEPF and NGOs execution of a project on introducing transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA) in CACs;
- execution of Kyrgyzstan-specific components of CAREC regional projects;
- taking continual effort to engage in environmental interagency and public councils, working groups and platforms;
- forging a platform allowing collaboration of the leading research organizations and universities of Kyrgyzstan.



Participants of the study tour to Issyk-Kul Region are observing the operation of the automated irrigation water accounting and allocation system in the Chon-Aksuhu River Basin. September 29-30, 2015

CAREC CO in Tajikistan



CAREC Country Office in Tajikistan (CO Tj) was established to assist implementation of priority national and regional environmental initiatives. CO Tj work mainly falls within the following themes: climate change and adaptation, water resources, and energy. The CO actively cooperates with the government sector as well as civil society, takes part in interventions by the State Committee on Environmental Protection, for example, contributed to the e-version of the NSoER of Tajikistan (sections on climate change and biodiversity) (www.gksintranet.tdzh/ecostat) based on 36 UNECE indicators.

Outcomes and achievements

CO Tj provides regular organizational and methodological assistance to various activities as well as supports the implementation of CAREC HO regional initiatives, i.e. within the Stakeholder Partnership on Joint Policy-Making: Assisting Transboundary Cooperation in Small Watershed of Central Asia Project, Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia (MONECA Component) within the EU Package “Forestry and Biodiversity Governance, including Environmental Monitoring in CA” (FLERMONECA), “Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies” (PRISE), “Supporting Local Environment and Water Resources Management Initiatives in CA” (Phase II), etc.

During the reporting period, CO Tj was directly involved and assisted CAREC HO in organizing and executing activities within the International High-Level Conference “Water for Life” (Dushanbe, 2015). This year, CO Tj staff also

supported and facilitated the 3-day MONECA training on GHG inventory and drafting NSoER for representatives of state and non-governmental organizations.

Within the framework of the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative for Africa and Asia (CARIAA), CO Tj experts put together a status report for Tajikistan and facilitated 2 stakeholder seminars. The results of consultations and negotiations with experts and international partners prove great interest towards target research on agriculture, food security and climate change caused migration issues.

Jointly with the experts of CAREC WIS Programme, CO Tj specialists developed a package of measures on ES economic valuation for Shirkent Historical and Nature Reserve and designed the corresponding project proposal “Enhancing Water Supply and Reducing Soil Erosion in *Najzirak (Nurek) Kishlak* ⁶”. As of today, all pertaining issues have been agreed with the stakeholders, and a pilot plot has been identified.

Tajikistan’s NGOs play a significant role in raising public awareness on environmental issues and climate change as well as promoting tools to reduce carbon footprint, improving access of local communities to environmentally friendly energy and implementing adaptation measures. To this end, CO Tj renders expert and technical assistance to target meetings with civil society reps.

⁶ Transl. note. “Kishlak” – a name for “village” (rural settlement) in Central Asia.



A working meeting with the representatives of Shirkent Historical and Nature Reserve, Tajikistan, 2015



A MONECA working meeting of international and national experts, Dushanbe, 2015

3.3 CAREC CO in Tajikistan



CO Tj staff share their experience on climate change and WRM with all stakeholders and take every effort possible to enhance CAREC status in Tajikistan by way of reporting on and participating in discussions within the framework of national and international conferences, summits, etc., including, e.g. the High-Level Water Conference “Water for Life” in Dushanbe, Extended GEF-6 Meeting in Minsk and High-Level International Forum in Abu Dhabi.

CO Tj also took part in drafting 9 project proposals and 3 tender calls. The NAMA Concept for forestry in Tajikistan – developed within the already completed CAREC project – helped the country to receive designated funding from the NAMA Special Fund within a new project.

During the reporting period, CO Tj secured (185 thous. USD) funding within the PRISE Project focusing on Tajikistan designed jointly with the experts of CAREC CCSE Programme experts.



Celebrating Earth Day in Dushanbe, 22 April 2015

Outlook

CAREC Country Office in Tajikistan will continue its resource mobilization efforts and will be launching

new national projects in close cooperation with state and non-state partners as well as will perform corporate representation functions and promote the achievement of national objectives and priorities on climate change, IWRM, land resources management, and PES.

CO Tj intends to take an active role in Phase II of the “Supporting Local Initiatives on Environment and Water Resources Management in CA” Project and the WIS Programme “Smart Waters” Project. In this regard it is planned to design and execute ES economic valuation in Shirkent Historical and Nature Reserve within the “Enhancing Water Supply and Reducing Soil Erosion in Najzirak (Nurek) Kishlak”.

Currently, the process of selecting local and international experts is almost completed, and the project’s launch is planned in the nearest future. CO Tj, likewise, intends to expand its consultations with regional NGOs to enhance CAREC country-level activities.

Fig. 2 Project proposals by and participation of CO Tj in tender calls (2014-2015)

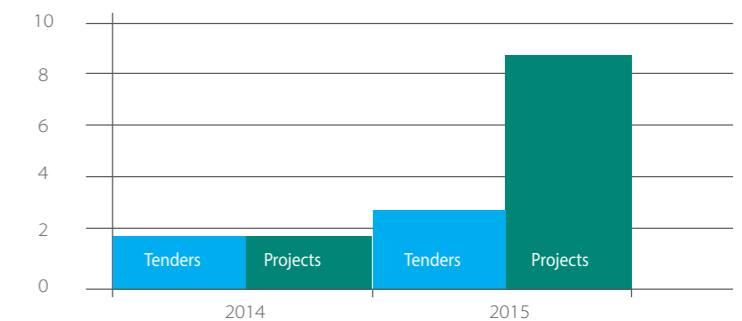


Fig. 3 Number experts attracted by CO Tj in 2014-2015



CAREC CO in Turkmenistan



CAREC Country Office in Turkmenistan (CO Trk) focuses its efforts on joint environmental interventions reflecting national objectives and programs with key national partners – the Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP), the Ministry of Water Management (MWM) and some others.

Outcomes and achievements

During the reporting period, CO Trk together with its partners developed and submitted for review to the MNP of the RT the draft National Action Plan (NAP) on Combatting Desertification fully reflecting target national priorities and a 10 Year National Strategy within the UN CCD. The NAP focuses on land salinization due to water shortage and is based on new target approaches and tools.

As per the National Climate Change Strategy and the National Forestry Development Program, CO Trk experts developed the Project “Enhancing Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Turkmenistan”, the implementation of which is scheduled for the nearest future. The key project partners include the Forestry Management Office and the National Institute of Deserts, Flora & Fauna of the MNP of the RT.

The Country Office is closely cooperating with the UN CCD and reinforces CAREC’s mandate on this platform based on its expanded expert and technical capacity. Thus, CO Trk specialists presented a report on the Center’s achievements at the UN CCD CoP in Ankara (Turkey) in October this year.

Outlook

CO Trk will continue its efforts to enhance international cooperation, including within the UN CCD framework. In addition, CO Trk will be promoting the synergy of 3 UN conventions, i.e. CCD, FCCC and CBD, as well as CAREC’s role as a regional CBD Focal Point in association with CAREC EMP Programme.

Next year, CO Trk also plans to continue its collaboration with regional organizations (ISDC, IFAS, etc.). Jointly with the Aarhus Centre CO Trk will take steps to enhance its awareness-raising efforts and civil society participation in its work.

By way of active participation in agricultural and environmental project coordination meetings as well as various international venues, CO Trk will make every possible effort to strengthen CAREC’s status among national and international partners.



CO Trk experts at the UN CCD CoP-12. The meeting of civil society representatives. October 11, 2015, Ankara, Turkey



Darvaza (turkm. Derweze – gates) – burning gas crater in Turkmenistan

During the reporting period, CO Turkmenista together with its partners developed and submitted for review to the MNP of the RT the draft National Action Plan (NAP) on Combatting Desertification fully reflecting target national priorities and a 10 Year National Strategy within the UNCCD

CAREC CO in Uzbekistan



During the reporting period, the work of CAREC Country Office in Uzbekistan (CO Uz) focused on environmental monitoring, biodiversity, renewable energy in rural areas and ESD promotion.

CO Uz places emphasis on priority environmental challenges and carries out its interventions in close cooperation and coordination with the State Nature Protection Committee (SNPC), national ministries of economy, agriculture and water resources, the Center of Hydrometeorological Services (SHMS) and some other concerned agencies.

In addition, CO Uz intensified its contacts with Uzbek NGOs and assists them in strengthening the platform fostering cooperation of Central Asian regional organizations on sustainable development and water use.

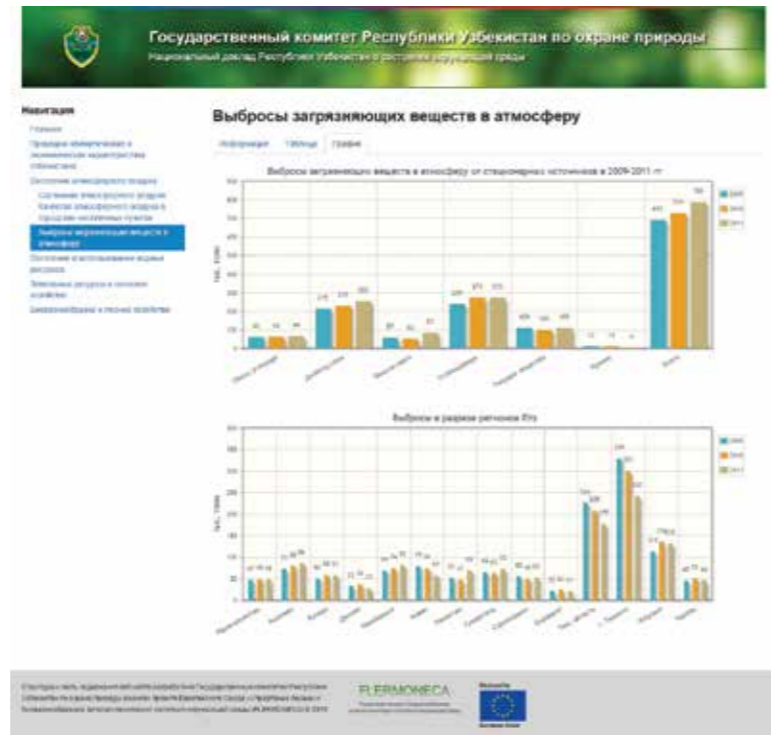


Fig. 4 Online version of the National State-of-Environment Report (NSoER) of Uzbekistan

Outcomes and achievements

In 2015, CO Uz was directly engaged in designing the environmental monitoring system in Uzbekistan. Thus, the staff of state environmental monitoring agencies underwent a training on environmental modeling and forecasting tools held by CO Uz.

Besides, representatives of SNPC, SHMS and the State Statistics Committee took part in the CAREC-organized study tour and examined environmental monitoring practices and approaches already applied in several CIS and European countries.

In 2015, within the MONECA Component of the FLERMONCECA Project, its experts developed and launched the online version of Uzbekistan's NSoER (now, it is available to general public) and assessed institutional and technical needs of concerned agencies.

During 2015, CO Uz expanded its ESD-focused environmental efforts as well as was able to enhance its linkages with the business sector to promote new technologies and knowledge within secondary vocational education. In particular, jointly with the Samsung Inc. CO Uz has been working on an initiative to advance new technical skills (repairing electronic equipment) at a pilot college in Tashkent. This effort reflects the so-called 3R approach



A study lab at the Samsung Service Academy in Tashkent

(reduce-reuse-recycle) and allows teaching technical specialists highly demanded in the country. Along with the technical academic component, jointly with its partners CAREC has developed and implemented a training course "Environment and Sustainable Development" dwelling on urgent regional and global environmental challenges.

3.5 CAREC CO in Uzbekistan



A water body in the Sudochoye Lake Wetlands System, Aral Sea region, Uzbekistan

In September 2015, Uzbekistan's government approved a Comprehensive Program to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea disaster, restore and promote social and economic development of the Aral Region. Within the Program, jointly with the SNPC of Uzbekistan CO Uz started the Project "Protection and Rational Use of the Sudochoye Lake Wetlands System of Ustyurt Plateau". In this regard, CAREC expert team has been assessing technical needs to develop an integrated management plan for this nature reserve as well as collecting data necessary to include the Sudochoye Lake System into the International Ramsar Wetlands List.

In the course of 2015, CO Uz enhanced its contacts with Uzbek NGOs, including a meeting with non-governmental organizations involved in sustainable development and natural resources protection. Currently, CO Uz conducts regular info-mailings providing progress review of ongoing projects and telling about upcoming ones, vacancies and tender calls not only related to CAREC but also to other development actors present in the country.

Outlook

In order to support performance of the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the RU on overcoming environmental aftermath in the Aral Sea Region (№363 of December 24, 2014 and №255 of August 29, 2015), the corresponding action and a number of new large-scale projects program have been developed, the implementation of which is expected to start in 2016. To ensure the necessary level of coordination within the forthcoming projects, mainly focusing on WRM and sustainable agriculture, a series of consultations with state agencies and international organizations have been already carried out.

In 2016, CO Uz intends to expand its interactions with national partners, public organizations and expert community with the purpose of implementing projects reflecting priority national objectives on sustainable agriculture, WRM, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and environmental capacity building. Simultaneously, CO Uz plans to foster the development of new CAREC programs focusing on Uzbekistan, i.e. within the framework of the Health & Environment Programme, and cooperation with regional organizations on WRM and sustainable development.



CAREC in 2016

CAREC in 2016

In 2016, CAREC will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. 6 out of these 15 years the organization has been successfully working and progressing on project basis. During the next year, the Center will continue its organizational and institutional sustainability efforts.

New megaprojects – within the framework of which it is planned to execute several innovative pilot initiatives, develop analytical publications, carry out trainings and introduce novel online training modules, launch online discussions and expert blogs – aim to reinforce CAREC as the Knowledge Hub in Central Asia and target international partnership. The components of these projects targeting all CACs will support and supply regional programs implemented by CAREC and its partners.

Next year, in order to expand linkages and cooperation with international agencies and foundations CAREC intends to undergo accreditation of the European Commission, which will require introduction of new quality control frameworks. In addition, CAREC Country Office in Uzbekistan will re-register, while the Country Office in Uzbekistan foresees expansion of its national mandate.

Measures to enhance systems allowing professional development of the Center's staff – by way of internal seminars, participation of CAREC experts in thematic educational trainings, assistance during the process of receiving academic degrees, holding academic exchanges with partner organizations and establishments – will, likewise, continue on a systemic basis.

As was mentioned above, 2016 will hallmark CAREC's 15th Anniversary. In this regard, all corporate activities will include components to inform the stakeholders about our achievements and progress. Country Offices in all CACs will hold dedicated events and actions on a whole spectrum of environmental and development themes. In order to enhance the quality of information dissemination on CAREC initiatives, as well as to ensure effective interaction with partner organizations while planning joint actions, CAREC Activities Schedule on the corporate website will be available and regularly updated.

In the coming year, CAREC will continue its steps to distribute and exchange knowledge in Central Asia, as well as these aimed at professional growth of its partners and experts via their engagement in break-through projects, global and regional dialogues on nature protection and sustainable development, specialized seminars, study trips, etc.

Financial Statement

Financial Statement



Financial Statement

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) of the International Accounting Standards Board.

CAREC financial reporting is based on euro, and all monetary sums are rounded up to nearest thousands.

Current values are reported against these as of October 31, 2014.

ASSETS	October 31, 2014 (thous. euro)	October 31, 2015 (thous. euro)
Short-term assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	281	224
Short-term accounts receivable	196	120
Inventories		40
Advances paid	135	
Current tax assets	2	
Other short-term assets		
Total short-term assets	614	384
Long-term assets		848
Permanent assets	88	40
Non-material assets	11	7
Other long-term assets		
Total long-term assets	99	895
TOTAL ASSETS	713	1279

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	October 31, 2014 (thous. euro)	October 31, 2015 (thous. euro)
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		
Short-term accounts payable	30	
Advanced received	499	1167
Tax payable	46	
Liabilities for other mandatory and voluntary payments	3	
Other accounts payable	5	
Total short-term liabilities	583	1167
Long-term liabilities		
Government grants	201	177
Total long-term liabilities	201	177
CAPITAL		
Statutory capital		
Retained earnings (uncovered loss) during reporting period	11	6
Retained earnings (uncovered loss) during preceding years	(82)	(71)
TOTAL CAPITAL	(71)	(65)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	713	1279

Financial Statement

CARECs Funding Sources in 2015

Funds received from donors to support CAREC activities are accounted as income for the period to which they relate. Funds received from donors to finance specified projects are accounted as income for the periods of incurring relevant expenses. All funds received from donors for specified projects are restricted to and used for only specified purposes.

Funds received (thous. euro)	2015
Federal Environment Protection Department of Switzerland (FOEN)	29
European Commission	209
Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)	32
Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES)	15
International Center of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)	44
OSCE	44
German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ GmbH)	460
World Bank	18
Korean Environment Institute (KEI)	2
Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia Company	35
REC Europe	6
PF «Ugam»	2
UNEP	102
USAID	376
Swiss Development and Cooperation Department (via «BothEnds»)	1
TOTAL (EURO)	1 378

INDICATOR TITLE	October 31, 2014 (thous. euro)	October 31, 2015 (thous. euro)
Funds received	1904	1378
Profit from disposal of assets	1	3
Amortization of government grants		24
Profit from donated assets		
Leasing profit	148	98
Exchange rate profit	332	48
Other profits	1	
Direct programmatic costs	2386	1551
General and administrative costs	1846	1276
Amortization of government grants	286	192
Costs related to marketing of goods and rendering of services		24
Exchange rate losses		
Other costs/losses	252	53
Другие убытки/расходы	1	
Total costs/losses	2385	1545
Operational profits/(costs) for the year	1	6
Financing profits		
Financing costs		
Other aggregate revenue		
Transformation exchange rate difference		
TOTAL AGGREGATE REVENUE/(COSTS) FOR THE YEAR	1	6

Annexes



Annex 1 List of publications

- Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services & Valuation Methods in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- A Cookbook: How to Prepare a State-of-Environment Report, illustrated supplement;
- Regional Synthesis. State of Environment in Central Asia: Illustrations on Selected Environmental Issues & Indicators;
- Review of the 6th Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development;
- Integrated Water Resources Management in Kazakhstan, manual (in the Russian, English and Kazakh languages);
- Global Climatic Processes in Central Asia: Achievements, Opportunities & Expectations, brief;
- Towards Paris 2015: What the Global Climate Agreement Means for Central Asia?, technical report;
- Climate Change Adaptation in Central Asia: Status, Priorities, Gaps & Readiness to Mainstream Advanced Adaptation Measures, analytical review;
- SWOT Analysis of Social & Economic Development in the Context of Climate Change in Tajikistan, analytical paper;
- Energy Efficiency Assessment of Household Electrical Appliances in Central Asia & Policies for Energy Performance Standards & Labeling, expert report;
- Final Publication on the Project of the Ministry of Environment and Climate of Norway "Phase I. Support of Local Initiatives in the Sphere of Management of Environment & Water Resources in CA";
- Basin Plan for the Kazakhstan Part of the Aspara River Basin (Russian and English versions);
- Basin Plan for the Kyrgyzstan Part of the Aspara River Basin (Russian and English versions);
- Basin Plan for the Kazakhstan Part of the Ugam River Basin (Russian and English versions).

Annex 2 CAREC Projects in 2015

	Project title	Duration	Budget	Donor	Project site
1	Support towards Local Initiatives in the Environmental Governance & Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Phase II	01/12/2014-01/12/2017	€750 000	Ministry of Environment and Climate of Norway	CA
2	Stakeholders Partnerships in Collaborative Policymaking: Fostering Transboundary Cooperation in Small Watersheds in Central Asia	16/04/2012-15/10/2015	€1 814 986	US Agency for International Development	CA
3	Improvement of Water Recourses Management In Dzhambul Oblast of Kazakhstan through Introduction of Effective Water Use System	01/04/2014-30/06/2015	€72 217	UNDP/Coca-Cola Joint Program "Every Drop Matters"	Kz
4	Effective Water Use Technologies for Aspara Basin	31/07/2016	€2 727	SGP/GEF (via PF "Mountain Club Zhabagly Manas")	Kz
5	Reducing the Anthropogenic Load on the Ecosystem Pools of Small Transboundary River Ugam through the Creation of Alternative Activities for the Local Community	31/07/2016	€4 364	SGP/GEF (via PF "Ugam")	Kz
6	CAREC - Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network Sub-Regional Node for Central Asia	03/07/2014-28/02/2015	€36 364	Institute for Global Environmental Studies	TJ
7	Sustainable Energy Programme for Central Asia: Renewable Energy Sources & Energy Efficiency	03/2013-02/ 2016	€331 755	European Union (via GLZ and GFA)	CA
8	Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies (PRISE)	01/08/2014-15/03/2015	€33 409	Sustainable Development Policy Institute	CA
9	Forest & Biodiversity Governance, including Environmental Monitoring in 5 CAC (MONECA part of FLERMONECA)	01/06/2013-30/09/2015	€375 000	EC (via Landesbetrieb Hessen-Forst & UBA-GmbH)	CA
10	Valuation of Ecosystem Services for Improving Agricultural Water Management in Kazakhstan	01/07/2014-31/12/2015	€154 825	International Center of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas	Kz
11	Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services into Sectoral & Macroeconomic Policies & Programmes of the Republic of Kazakhstan	30/09/2015	€81 818	UN Environmental Program	Kz
12	I-WEB: Integrating Water Cycle Management: Building Capability, Capacity and Impact in Education and Business (EU TEMPUS)	15/10/2012-14/10/2015	€66 368	EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency/ Middlesex University of London	Kz
13	CoMo-East-2: Supporting Participation of Eastern Partnership and CA Cities in the Covenant of Mayors	09/2013-09/2015	€200 000	EU via Development and Cooperation Department (DG DEVCO)	CA

Annexes

Annex 2 Continued

	Название проекта	Сроки реализации	Бюджет	Донор	Проектная территория
14	Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs & Reporting Process under UNCCD	01/05/2014-30/06/2015	€90 909	UN Environmental Program	Trk
15	Capacity Building in Development of Policy Frameworks for Promotion of Low-Carbon Emissions Societies in Central Asia	12/02/2015-31/12/2015	€101 376	Government of Korea via UN Environmental Program	CA
16	Strengthening Capacities in Sustainable Water Management at Regional, National & Catchment Levels	01/03/2015-01/11/2016	€220 000	German Society for International Cooperation	CA
17	Competition of Student Applications for Research Works	10/03/2015-31/12/2015	€36 364	World Bank Institute	CA
18	Supporting Turkmenistan in Establishing State of Environment Reports in Line with UNECE Indicators	01/02/2015-31/12/2015	€41 107	Federal Environment Protection Department of Switzerland	CA
19	Samsung Service Academy	07/04/2015-06/04/2016	€86 364	Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia	Uz
20	Regional Training Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming & Conflict Resolution in Water Governance	15/05/2015-15/08/2016	€40 000	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	CA
21	Support to Regional & Sub-Regional Ministerial Forums for Policy Exchange & Priority Setting on Key Environmental Issues	15/07/2015-15/10/2015	€17 273	UN Environmental Program	CA
22	Migration, Remittances & Climate Resilience in Arid & Semi-Arid Lands of Senegal & Tajikistan (Research Implemented in the Context of The Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies (PRISE))	01/09/2015-31/03/2016	€143 077	Sustainable Development Policy Institute	TJ
23	Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Looking Beyond 2015 (UN Poverty-Environment Initiative)	20/07/2015-20/07/2016	€127 249	UNDP Regional Office in Istanbul	CA; Krg & TJ
24	Support towards Local Initiatives in Environmental Governance & Water Resources Management in Central Asia: Phase II	01/09/2015-30/05/2016	€100 000	German Federal Environmental Agency via GLZ	Trk
25	Smart Waters	01/10/2015-30/09/2020	€8 636 177	US Agency for International Development	CA & Afghanistan
26	6th Central Asian Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALPESD)	17/07/2015-30/10/2020	€13 150	OSCE Programme Office in Astana	CA & Afghanistan

Annex 3 List of acronyms and abbreviations

APAN	Asian Pacific Adaptation Network	IFAS	International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
ASBP	Aral Sea Basin Programme	IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ADB	Asian Development Bank	IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Studies
AWARE	Targeted Awareness Raising for Enhanced EU-CA Partnership (Project)	IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
ЕБРР	Европейский банк реконструкции и развития	Krg	Kyrgyzstan
CA	Central Asia	Kz	Kazakhstan
CAEELP	Central Asian Energy Efficiency Learning Portal	MONACA	Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia (Project Component)
CAC	Central Asian country	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CALPESD	Central Asian Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development	NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
CAR	Central Asian Region	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CAS	CAREC Activities Support (Unit)	NSoER	
CCSE	Climate Change & Sustainable Energy (Programme)	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
CEP	Committee on Environmental Protection	PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
CO	Country Offices (CAREC)	PPP	Public Private Partnerships
CoMo-East	Covenant of Mayors-East (Initiative)	PRISE	Pathways to Resilience in Semi-Arid Economies (Project)
CoP	Conference of Parties	REG	Regional Environmental Goals
DIW	Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction & Development	SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
EC	European Commission	SEAP	Sustainable Energy Actions Plan
EMP	Environment Management & Policy (Programme)	SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development (Programme)	SIC	Scientific Information Center
EU	European Union	TEMPUS	Trans-European Mobility Programme for University Studies
FLERMONECA	Forest and Biodiversity Governance, Including Environmental Monitoring (Project)	TJ	Tajikistan
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)	Trk	Turkmenistan
GBPP	Green Bridge Partnership Program	UN	United Nations
GE	Green Economy	UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GEF-SGP	Small Grant Program of the Global Environmental Facility	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
GG	Green Growth	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
I-WEB	Water, Education and Business (Project)	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
ICARDA	Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas	Uz	Uzbekistan
ICSD	Interstate Sustainable Development Commission	WIS	Water Initiative Support (Programme)
ICWC	Interstate Commission for Water Coordination		



Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC)

050043, Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Orbita - 1, 40
Tel.: +7 727 265 4334, fax: +7 727 270 5337
info@carececo.org, www.carececo.org

CAREC Country Offices

Kazakhstan

11/1 Orynbor str., office 207,
Kazgidromet building,
010000, Astana, Kazakhstan
+ 7 705 662 0812
shtoilbayeva@carececo.org

Kyrgyzstan

3B Tolstoy str., 720005,
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
+ 996 312 54 38 76
mseitkasymov@carececo.org

Tajikistan

5/1 Shamsi str, 734034,
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
+ 992 917 096 822
+ 992 93 9999 272
akayumov@carececo.org
abdkaumov@mail.ru

Turkmenistan

15, Bitarap Ashgabat,
Turkmenistan
+ 993 12 942148
ibagirova@carececo.org

Uzbekistan

7, Bunyodkor ave., 700043,
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
+ 998 71 2773787
uzbekistan@carececo.org