
THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



carececo.org | +7 (727) 265 4333 | info@carececo.org

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STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting period: January-December 2023
Goal: Reporting to members of CAREC Board of Governors and partners to highlight and evaluate the progress achieved within CAREC's strategic goals.

The report is based on the following **strategic priorities:**

1. Generation of knowledge and evidence base
2. Supporting national governments, the public and other stakeholders in developing comprehensive policies, plans and strategies for climate change mitigation and sustainable use of natural resources
3. Strengthening regional dialogues with national and cross-border practices and

experiences to stimulate information exchange, cooperation and partnerships

4. Strengthening institutional arrangements and management systems within CAREC for the implementation of this Strategy

The report also includes a welcome by CAREC General Director and a member of the Founding Council, a financial statement, a general summary and annexes on projects, events, publications and NGO partners in the reporting year.

The CAREC Development Strategy and other strategic documents are available on the website

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) is an independent, non-political and non-profit international organization that assists the Central Asian governments in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges. CAREC was established in 2001 by the governments of five Central Asian countries, namely the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the European Union and UNDP following the resolution of the IV Pan-European Conference held in 1998 in Aarhus, Denmark.

A WELCOME BY CAREC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear partners, colleagues and friends,

Highly appreciating your contribution and expressing sincere gratitude for your participation in CAREC activities, we have prepared and present a report on 2023 results.

We are sure that you should be informed of our achievements and be aware of the future CAREC prospects as our common goal is the desire for an environmental balance in the Central Asian region for sustainable development of all countries in the region.

Together with our partners, we are directing our efforts to achieve environmental balance in the Central Asian region,

with a clear commitment to sustainable development of all countries in this region. We hope that this report will be a useful tool for you, reflecting our collective efforts and progress towards achieving our common goals.

In 2023, CAREC was actively addressing not only climate resilience challenges, but also other important aspects of the region's development. This included developing innovative technologies to improve water and energy efficiency, promoting ecologically responsible practices in business and society, and supporting sustainable urban planning.

At the same time, CAREC actively contributed to all aspects of development, holding various forums to discuss key priorities in regional policy. Among them, such important topics as water resource management in the region, decarbonization in Central Asia, the interconnection of water, energy, food and environmental security, as well as issues of climate finance, information and education, and the implementation of the expert potential of civil society are actively discussed. These discussions are aimed at achieving sustainable development goals, including clean water and sanitation, combating climate change, providing affordable and clean energy, maintaining sustainable cities and community partnerships.

CAREC continued its extensive work to unite the countries of the Central Asian region in their joint solution of national and regional problems in the field of environmental protection and climate change. It resulted in the traditional Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2023) and a number of high-level meetings with representatives of the MFA and parliamentarians of all Central Asian states, which resulted in the decision taken jointly with the governments of Central

Asian countries and international partners to organize the CAREC Central Asia Pavilion at the UN Global Climate Summit (UNFCCC COP-28). Let me emphasize that the united Central Asia Pavilion is so far the only platform in the global climate arena where Central Asian countries have the opportunity to demonstrate solidarity in the fight against climate change, exchange views, talk about the national priorities of each country, its position in the negotiation process and outline the common interests of the region on UNFCCC COP-28. Uniting the region on global climate platforms is one of CAREC's most significant diplomatic and political achievements.

An equally significant result was the introduction of various financial mechanisms aimed at the implementation of climate-resilient projects under the project "Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea

Basin" (CAMP4ASB AF), which is implemented by CAREC under the auspices of EC IFAS with financial support of the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund. In addition, to promote informed dialogue in transboundary basins, improve transboundary cooperation and make more effective decisions, CAREC supported the dialogue platform of the Blue Peace initiative in Central Asia. All these efforts indicate CAREC's constant commitment to achieving sustainable development and conserving natural resources in the Central Asian region, which is important for ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.

Dear friends, let me once again express my gratitude to you on behalf of CAREC for the interaction and strengthening of our partnerships.

We value your contribution to the overall efforts to achieve our goals and strive to further develop our cooperation. We look forward to continuing successful and inspiring partnership in the future.

Best regards,

Zafar Makhmudov, CAREC Executive Director



A WELCOME BY MEMBER OF THE CAREC BOARD OF GOVERNORS



On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Regional Environmental Center of Central Asia, I welcome everyone who is investing their efforts in uniting the countries of the Central Asian region and various parties to the process: the public, government agencies, business, local government and others to address the regional environmental challenges.

Having a unique status as an international independent, non-profit and non-political organization, CAREC successfully fulfilled its important strategic objectives throughout 2023. Namely:

Supporting national governments, the public and other stakeholders in developing comprehensive policies, plans and strategies for climate change mitigation and sustainable use of

natural resources. Promoting the participation of public organizations and academic institutions in environmental processes and decisions made at the national and regional levels.

Strengthening regional dialogues with national and cross-border practices and experiences to stimulate information exchange, cooperation and partnerships.

All CAREC projects are aimed at creating sustainable partnership mechanisms that allow for closer cooperation, exchange of knowledge, and increase the potential of participants in the processes of formation and decision-making related to one of the priority current problems of humanity - reducing the impact and adaptation to climate change. A very important result of these efforts is the preparation of two joint regional statements on behalf of the governments of the Central Asian countries and on behalf of representatives of the civil sector and youth of the Central Asian region, which were announced at the high-level international climate forum - the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. No less significant is the organization of the Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP-28 - a platform that makes it possible to strengthen the region's voice in the complex global process of climate negotiations.

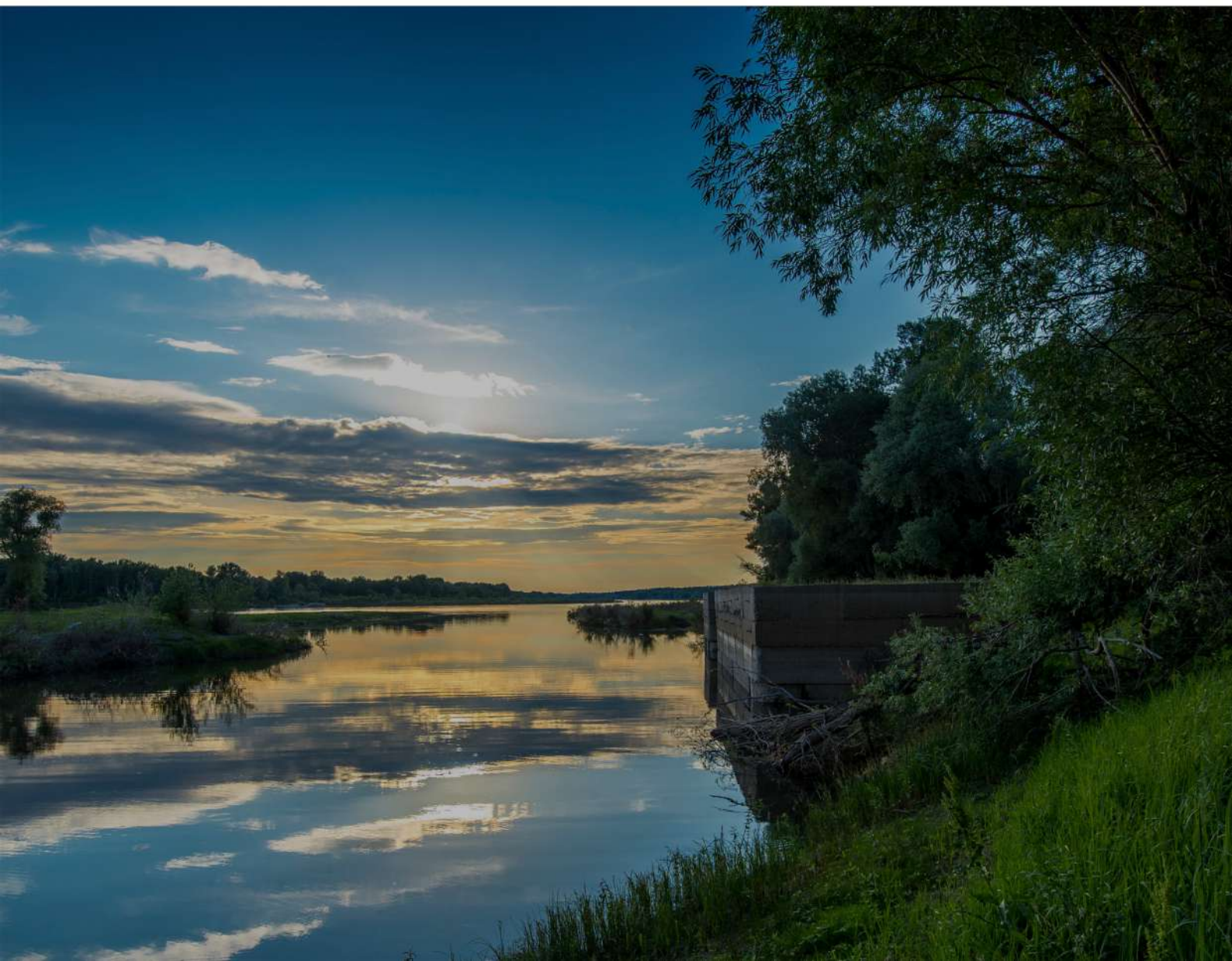
CAREC special attention is always water resources. And this year, work was carried out to develop transboundary cooperation in transboundary basins to make more effective decisions in water resource management. Certain results have been achieved in promoting solutions to overcome the environmental crisis in the Aral Sea basin.

It is gratifying to see that the circle of beneficiaries from CAREC's activities is expanding, including representatives of small and medium-sized businesses and representatives of the academic community, to whom the 2023 events were aimed. CAREC's interaction with civil society is being strengthened.

Welcoming the achievements of 2023, I would like to thank all employees and partners for their contribution and wish further development, sustainable performance results in the future!

Best regards,

Svetlana Mogilyuk, member of the CAREC Board of Governors



SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This document provides reporting for members of the CAREC Board of Governors and partners on achieving CAREC's strategic goals planned for 2020-2025. Accordingly, the information in this report is presented in the context of strategic priorities and actions.

For CAREC 2023 became a landmark year in recognizing the interdependence of the water, energy, food and environmental sectors (WEFE Nexus approach), which has been promoted since 2018. The interconnection of sectors and the need for intersectoral cooperation was announced at the Summit of the Heads of Central Asian States in Dushanbe, September 14, 2023. The study of the interconnection of sectors, through modeling the Nexus approach, has been introduced into advanced training programs for public officials and the education

of a new generation of specialists in five Central Asian countries. The main achievements of the year include:

- Continuation of the CAREC flagship initiative to prepare regional statements from countries and civil society and organize Central Asia Pavilion at the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

- Renewal of cooperation with the Coca-Cola Development Foundation in Kazakhstan.

- CAREC nomination to support the process of preparing a national report to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Tajikistan.

- Completion of the national forest inventory in Kyrgyzstan with updating of quantitative and qualitative data on all forests of the republic and development of a new forestry map.



-Testing of all reporting systems (JRC, Trends.Earth and FAO-WOCAT.) in Turkmenistan during the preparation of the national report on Combating Desertification.

New beneficiaries of CAREC projects include micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) working in the field of agricultural processing and also local financial institutions to improve the financing of green technologies in enterprises. In the cities of Fergana and Bukhara in Uzbekistan, in the Sughd and Gorno-Badakhshan regions in Tajikistan, the creation of MSME Support Centers has begun. Initiatives of women in the water sector of Central Asia are presented at the sessions of the UN Water Conference in New York.

The Days of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya Rivers, which were held in Nukus

(Uzbekistan), Dashoguz (Turkmenistan), Nurek (Tajikistan), Daroot-Korgon (Kyrgyzstan) and regional in the city of Khiva (Uzbekistan), brought together 328 participants, residents and users of the ecosystems of these basins.

In 2023 in total: 15 projects were implemented

(Annex No. 1), the income for which amounted to more than € 2 million. 74 events (seminars/trainings, meetings, conferences) were held for more than 712 participants (Annex No. 2). 44 publications and materials were published, which include expert reports, methodological manuals, training materials, video materials, glossaries, reference books (Annex No. 3).



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 1. Generation of knowledge and evidence base

Knowledge and evidence are essential to understanding and adapting to challenges. In total, in 2023, within the CAREC projects, 31 publications and 13 training materials were published, the topics of which met the needs of beneficiaries. For example: methods for writing different chapters of the national inventory, thematic cases and seminars on negotiation skills, relationship between water, energy, food and environmental security, water footprint analysis and others. List and links to publications and materials are given in annexes No. 3 and No. 4.

To summarize the knowledge generation activities, the following key actions can be identified:

- ✓ The development of a methodological guide to conducting greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories has begun, covering the chapters that cause greater difficulties in the Central Asian countries. The guide will include a step-by-step checklist for collecting and analyzing data for compiling GHG inventories, and chapter templates.

- ✓ The development and approval of two training modules have been completed: 1) on changes in legislation and new strategic directions of Turkmenistan, 2) Financial solvency of the work of small basin councils for retraining and mandatory certification of specialists, carried out by all departments of

Turkmenistan once every two years. They will be posted on the portal river.bp and on the website of the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan.

- ✓ The development of two courses, available for use offline and online, has been completed: 1. On water resources management for the Civil Service Academy under the President of Turkmenistan. The course includes 140 lectures, 10 practical lessons and test material for teaching at universities and for online learning; 2. on Integrated Water Resources Management for Ashgabat Agricultural University and for Dashoguz Agricultural Institute.



Photo 1. Participants in the training for trainers on “Water Diplomacy and International Water Law” (Almaty, November 20-23, 2023)

- ✓ A course, educational materials and syllabus on “Water Diplomacy and International Water Law” have been developed. The course also includes case studies and seminar sessions on negotiation skills. Includes 15 hours of theoretical classes and

0 hours of seminar classes and is worth 5 credits.

✓ A prototype of a clean technology financing product for local financial institutions was prepared.

✓ It is planned to develop a training module on climate-resilient and gender IWRM with training for trainers and individual thematic trainings at the national, transboundary and regional levels.

✓ Conducting training seminars for thematic specialists from ministries and departments of Central Asia is CAREC traditional activity. In 2023, 26 training seminars were held on the following topics:

- on application of the Biosafety Clearing-House, which is the basis for the development of the Kyrgyz Republic annual country report;
- on processing a database of forest resources and preparing cartographic materials on land and forest resources of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- on the use of data collection and analysis tools to prepare national inventory reports (NIR), on emissions reduction and climate adaptation. In particular, the following were studied: indicators of loss and damage, aspects of the climate action inventory, climate reporting formats provided by countries as part of their obligations under the Paris Agreement - Common Reporting Format (CRF), Common Tabular Format (CTF), as well as modern international solutions for the systematization of climate data were presented to experts, and:
- on climate change issues for media representatives;

- on skills in water diplomacy, international water law and women's participation in water diplomacy;
- on green investments, climate finance and financial instruments;
- on new projects in the region for more effective planning and integration of climate-related sectors, as well as to promote the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation. For example: "Climate-resilient integrated water resources management in the Zarafshan river basin", RESILAND.



Photo 2. Regional practical training "Improving data collection and analytical tools for forecasting greenhouse gas emissions in Central Asian countries" (Dushanbe, May 18-19, 2023)

Information about seminars and trainings in Annex No. 2.

✓ Awareness among residents, businessmen and the new generation has traditionally been raised through the support of eco-festivals, exhibitions and CAREC news. In particular, in 2023, Turkmenistan supported the second climate eco-festival "Let's Save the Earth Together!" to involve young people in caring for natural resources. 50 boys and girls participated in a competition of questions on water topics.



Photo 3. Climate eco-festival “Let’s save the Earth together!” (Ashgabat, October 15, 2023)

Preservation and dissemination of information is carried out through CAREC corporate and thematic websites. The corporate portal <https://carececo.org/> unites 4 thematic websites:

- <http://www.riverbp.net/>,
- <http://ca-climate.org/>,
- <http://elearning.carececo.org/>,
- <https://carececo.org/main/ckh/publications/>.

In 2023, the sites increased their subscriber count by 3,548 to reach 5,441. The site session has also increased up to 23,204 people per year.

During the year, 132 news items were published, 31 publications and 13 materials on courses and trainings were prepared and posted.

The Central Asian portal CACIP continues to develop <https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/>. In

- 2023, more than 300 information posts were published in Russian and English, a database of more than 500 projects and its visualization was developed, more than 6,500 visits were recorded.

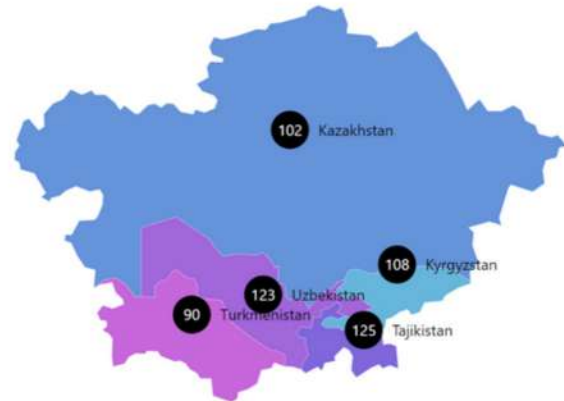


Photo 4. Database of Central Asia projects on the CACIP portal

- In parallel with the portals, information was used on social networks:
- <https://www.facebook.com/carececo> (3853 subscribers),
- https://twitter.com/recca_carec (424 readers),
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-regional-environmental-centre-for-central-asia> (1494 subscribers)
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5SggUz7Mivi t12K1EAcsbw> (455 subscribers).



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 2.1. Supporting national governments, the public and other stakeholders in developing comprehensive policies, plans and strategies for climate change mitigation and sustainable use of natural resources

Creating a sustainable transparency framework, building the capacity of members of national delegations, experts and stakeholders in the countries of the region responsible for national plans and reporting under the Paris Agreement is a key for improving the effectiveness of climate action at national and regional levels, access to finance and thereby development of climate resilient, green, low carbon economies in the region.

In this direction, CAREC supports the governments of Central Asian countries by providing a wide range of tools for developing policies to prevent climate change and in creating such important documents and strategies as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and a national action plan for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change (NAP), and also provides methodologies and comprehensive mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of these policies.

✓ A review article has been prepared on readiness of

the region countries for the “green” transition. The article offers an analytical digest of the existing strategies and plans of Central Asia, and also collects data on existing projects and initiatives on green economy and transparency.

✓ Support was provided to the process of preparing Turkmenistan's national report to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification,

which included an analysis of requirements for drawing up maps and filling out data. Reports were amended in accordance with challenges faced by Turkmen experts as



part of the analytical work. The report was uploaded to the PRAIS system on February 2, 2023.

✓ In support of water reform in the Republic of Uzbekistan, a project has been launched to develop basin management in the Zarafshan River basin using the CAREC methodology for creating basin councils and developing basin plans. In the pilot basin area, weather stations will be updated and a unified information system will be created so that the management of the basin's water resources takes into account climate conditions and risks. Although most of the activities will take place in the Uzbek territory of the ZRB (namely, in Samarkand, Navoi, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya and Bukhara regions), close cooperation and trust-based dialogue with Tajikistan, located upstream of the Zarafshan River basin, are included in the action plan.

✓ The Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan was provided with

assistance in promoting Lake Karakol to the list of wetlands of international importance.

This is an important action, since inclusion in the Ramsar list aims to ensure the conservation of the land unique ecosystems and biodiversity and gain

recognition on the world stage for access to international resources and support for improving management and conservation, promoting environmentally sustainable development of the region, developing international cooperation.



Photo 5. Lake Karakol, Kazakhstan

✓ The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic was supported in updating the Management Plans for Specially Protected Areas for development of eco-tourism, and preparing a proposal to amend the Law on PAs.



Photo 6. The process of signing a memorandum on biodiversity conservation in Kyrgyzstan

This support was provided as part of the Memorandum signed between the CAREC Branch in Kyrgyzstan and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs.



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 2.2. Supporting the interaction of national governments with international conventions and sharing experiences between countries at the regional level

As a regional environmental organization whose activities cover environmental management, water resources, climate adaptation and education for sustainable development, CAREC's activities contribute to the achievement of SDGs directly related to the use and conservation of natural resources (SDG 15, SDG 6, SDG 7), population health (SDG 3), socio-economic development (SDG 1, SDG 12, SDG 13), population education (SDG 4), development of effective institutions (SDG 16) and partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17). Accordingly, CAREC works with environmental conventions, which are tools for coordinating the efforts of countries and partners to achieve the SDGs. In this direction, in 2023:



Photo 7. Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28 (Dubai, 1 December 2023)

✓ Preparations were made for the participation of Central Asian countries at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to

develop the position of the region and a regional statement from states, the non-governmental sector and youth.



Photo 8. Participation and speech by CAREC Executive Director Zafar Makhmudov at a side event at the UNEP Pavilion (Dubai, December 9, 2023)

At the Conference of the Parties in Dubai, the organization and activities of the Central Asia Pavilion was supported, where 44 open events (side events) and 30 closed meetings of national delegations were held. In total, the Pavilion was visited by more than 3,000 participants, 429 participated online, and more than 270 speakers addressed. In addition to the events at the Pavilion, national delegates and civil society representatives received daily expert support to work more professionally and effectively at the Conference of the Parties. Thematic briefings on conference topics, consultations on negotiating groups, documents, critical topics and agenda items

were on a daily basis. The most convincing results of expert support were as follows: landlocked developing countries were added to the COP28 documents as a group of countries particularly vulnerable to climate change. Kazakhstan received membership (on rotation) of the board of the new fund “Loss and Damage Fund”. Tajikistan has joined the initiative “Ambition to Melting Ice”. Kyrgyzstan has agreed on technical support from FAO to receive funds under GEF grants program.



Photo 9. Side event at the Central Asia Pavilion (Dubai, December 5, 2023)

✓ Support for the process of preparing National reports to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Turkmenistan continued and began in Tajikistan.



Photo 10. Online meeting of members of the RRI-CA network (February 15, 2023)

✓ Continued interaction with members of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia to submit a new wetland in the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Ramsar list and to obtain new funding to support the network.

A proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity to recognize CAREC as the regional center of the convention in Central Asia.



Photo 11. Round table to review the application of the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Cartagena Protocol (Bishkek, March 17, 2023)

✓ Support was provided in promoting the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Cartagena Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Kyrgyz Republic, within the framework of which a number of trainings were conducted for government officials. CAREC remains an observer in the UNECE Steering Committee for the implementation of the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and is a member of the UNECE specialized working groups on ESD.



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 2.3. Increasing countries' awareness of and facilitating access to climate finance

Financing is critical for the implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for all sustainable development goals. In this direction, thematic regional dialogues, seminars were held and project proposals were prepared. In particular, seminars:

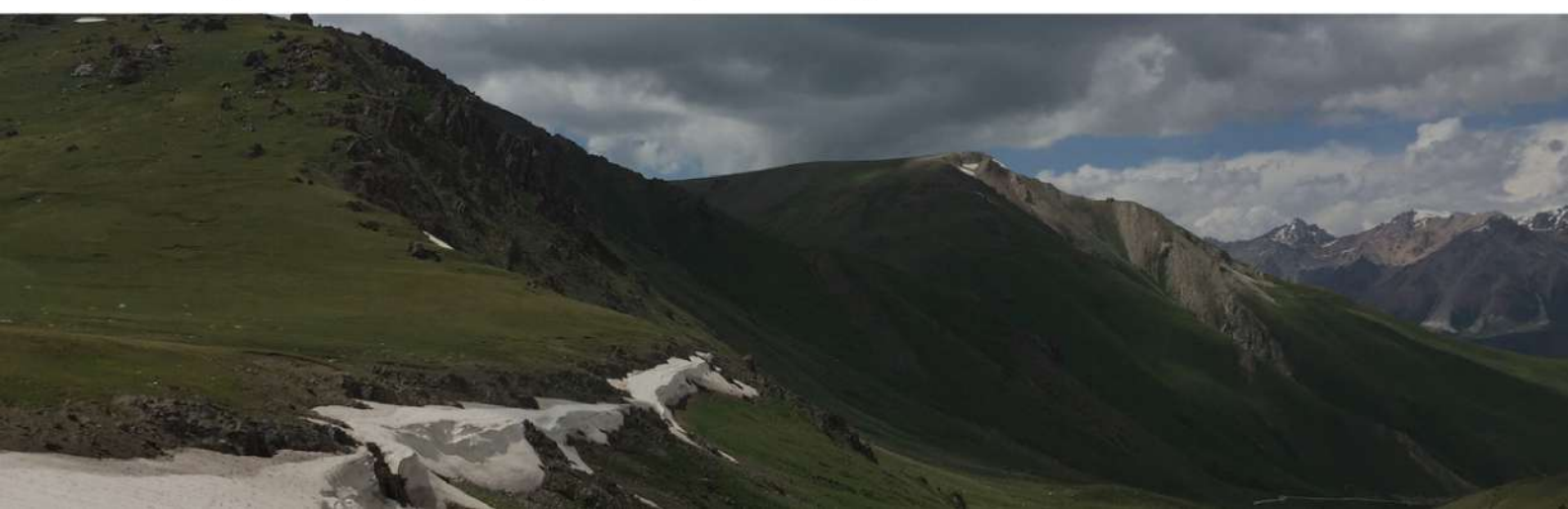
- on green investments, climate finance and opportunities for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for public officials;
 - on financing green technologies: existing financial products and funding sources for representatives of financial institutions in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan;
 - on mobilizing resources to introduce practices and technologies for sustainable consumption and production for representatives of MSMEs in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for a better understanding of banking terminology, the concept of ecosystems and funding sources.
- ✓ Topics discussed at the regional dialogues included the possibility of using Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the possibility of financing

Nexus projects, and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of regional programs.

✓ The project proposal for Regional Preparedness was submitted to the Green Climate Fund with support of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

✓ In collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, a project proposal is being prepared to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the Preparedness program phase 2, which provides for the assessment of Turkmenistan Hydromet by the Hydromet of another country CHD 2.0, in accordance with WMO requirements (including an early warning system), as well as the revision of the National Country program and project portfolio for GCF.

✓ Together with the Aarhus Center in Bishkek, a technical proposal was prepared for UNDP to develop new mechanisms for financing PAs in Kyrgyzstan.



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 2.4. Promoting the participation of public organizations and academic institutions in environmental processes and decisions taken at the national and regional levels

Representatives of NGOs from all Central Asian countries are included in the CAREC Board of Founders and quarterly participate in the discussion of CAREC current activities, strategic and tactical plans.

In turn, CAREC supports the opportunity for NGO representatives to make joint statements, participate and speak at regional and global conferences: at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, Dubai, UAE, December 2023, at the Central Asia Climate Change Conference, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, May 2023. Every year, CAREC country offices hold meetings with environmental NGOs to exchange information and plan joint actions.

In addition, in *Kazakhstan*, with the NGO of Western Kazakhstan "Tabigi Orta", CAREC is promoting Lake Karakol to the list of wetlands of international importance.



Photo 12. The process of CAREC joining "Green Alliance.KG" association

In *Kyrgyzstan*, CAREC became a member of the Green Alliance, signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Aarhus Center in Bishkek, and continues cooperation with the Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan in agroforestry and certification of forest products.

The following were supported in *Turkmenistan*:

- An initiative of the Kazakh-German University and NGO "Yashil Shokhle" to conduct consultations for public officials, academic institutions, NGOs and businesses on assessing the relationship between water-energy-food and ecosystem resources.



Photo 13. Consultation for public officials, academic institutions, NGOs and businesses on assessing the relationship between WEFE resources

- The activities of Bosphorus youth center in the implementation of its mini-project for the rational use of water resources of the

Karakum River through the introduction of an automated water accounting system.



Photo 14. Karakum River, Turkmenistan

- Organization of Eco-festival in Ashgabat, pavilion “Water is our everything!”. A competition of questions was held.

The list of NGO partners in 2023 is available in Annex No. 5.

The Central Asian Regional Network of Academic Societies on Water, Energy, Food and Environmental Security brings together 33

universities and academies in Central Asia, has an electronic platform for interaction and specific communities of practitioners and researchers to introduce technical innovations in the field of water supply and wastewater disposal, sanitation and hygiene.



Photo 15. Participants of the meeting of the Central Asian Network of Academic Societies (Almaty, November 24, 2023)

In 2023, it was updated and increased by 20%. The list of training courses transferred to universities in 2023 is available in Annex No. 4.



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 3: Strengthening regional dialogues with national and cross-border practices and experiences to stimulate information exchange, cooperation and partnerships

The organization of dialogues is one of the main CAREC tools used in close partnership, within projects or at the sites of national, regional and international partners. To advance climate change solutions in the region, we support:

✓ *Central Asia Pavilion at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC*, held in Dubai, UAE, from November 30 to December 10, 2023. The Pavilion became home to delegations from all countries in the region, where representatives discussed current issues and joint initiatives. Within the pavilion, 44 open events, including four events organized within CAREC projects and 30 closed meetings of national delegations were held.

The results achieved during the Pavilion work turned out to be significant and inspiring for all participants. An important part of these results was strengthening of diplomatic relations between the region countries, sharing experiences and transfer of advanced technologies. Agreements were also reached and joint declarations were signed aimed at strengthening cooperation in various areas such as trade, economics and education. An important aspect of the Central Asia Pavilion at the conference was the active involvement of the public and youth in the dialogue on sustainable development. Educational events and forums organized within the Pavilion provided an opportunity for young leaders and

activists to express their ideas and proposals for addressing environmental and social challenges. This approach has helped stimulate innovative approaches to sustainability issues and encouraged the inclusion of youth in developing strategies for the future of the region.



Photo 16. Adoption of the Regional Strategy for Climate Adaptation in Central Asia at the UNFCCC COP-28 (Dubai, December 2, 2023)

Additionally, the Central Asia Pavilion left a legacy in the form of projects aimed at strengthening the environmental security of the region. The agreements concluded and signed reflected the readiness of the Central Asian countries to jointly confront the challenges of climate change and promote the transition to a green economy. These practical steps marked an important milestone in ensuring a sustainable future for the region and highlighted the countries' commitment to

joint conservation of natural resources and the well-being of future generations.

✓ *The 13th Central Asian Leadership Program (CALP)* was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on September 18-22, 2023 for 15 youth representatives nominated by non-governmental organizations, the private sector, public and scientific institutions. The priority topics of this year's program were as follows: climate change, green development, sustainable production and consumption, water cooperation, transition to carbon neutrality, cyclic economy, interconnection of water, energy and food security (NEXUS);



Photo 17. Participants of the 13th CAPL (Almaty, September 18-22, 2023)

✓ *5th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACC)* in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 16-17, 2023 under the general motto “Climate Change and Development”. The main CACCC program consisted of 6 main and 11 parallel sessions, of which CAREC organized and conducted 3 main and 8 parallel sessions plus 4 pre-conference events

(Annex 2.). In total, out of 300 offline and 450 online conference participants, almost half of the participants, representatives of regional and state structures, the academic community, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate



Photo 18. Participants of the 5th CACC (Dushanbe, May 16-17, 2023)

Change, international development partners, civil society, youth and media, attended CAREC events. The results of the conference are recorded in the final document and serve as the basis for the development of current or new development projects.

✓ *Two meetings of representatives of the MFA and parliaments of Central Asian countries* on climate change and strengthening intersectoral cooperation were held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on April 19 and December 2, 2023 in Dubai, UAE at venue of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.



Photo 19. Ninth meeting of the MFA and CA parliamentarians on climate change (Tashkent, April 19, 2023)

The meetings had an expanded format and were also attended by coordinators of the

UNFCCC in CA, international organizations, etc. progress in improving national legislation and institutional frameworks necessary for the implementation of climate policies of countries. Progress in meeting NDC commitments, progress towards carbon neutrality and climate adaptation were also discussed.

✓ *Blue Peace session in Central Asia "Impact of climate change on transboundary water resources from source to sea"* at the Central Asia Climate Change Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 17, 2023. The session supported the interaction of internationally recognized water experts and managers of transboundary basins from different continents, which contributed to the understanding of existing global experience and lessons. The Central Asia delegation included already experienced managers and employees of basin organizations and youth, providing them with opportunity for long-term communication and knowledge sharing.



Photo 20. Special event to promote green investments based on the Nexus approach at the 7th EU-Central Asia High Level Conference on Environment and Water Cooperation (Rome, February 22, 2023)

✓ *A series of special events to promote green investments based on the Nexus approach and dedicated to the importance of climate transparency for green transition took place in*

February 2023 as part of the EU-Central Asia High-Level Conference on Environmental Cooperation on February 02, 2023, Rome, Italy.

✓ *Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Water Quality in Astana, Kazakhstan, December 13, 2023.* The meeting supported live communication between technical experts from five countries in the region on transboundary water quality. Participants heard reports from representatives of hydrometeorological services on the work done in the field of surface water quality monitoring over the past year, exchanged information about ongoing projects at the national level and plans for water protection, and discussed opportunities for cooperation and capacity building through joint research and exchange visits.

✓ *Meeting of the bilateral Uzbek-Kazakh joint working group on environment and water quality in the Syrdarya River basin in Astana, Kazakhstan, December 14, 2023.* As part of supporting the CAREC project, the group includes observers from the environmental agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. At the meeting, the results of coordinated sampling of water from the Syrdarya River were presented, data was exchanged and a review of the quality along the Syrdarya River in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan was discussed.

Despite the fact that the quality dynamics of the Syrdarya River has not changed significantly, the participants agreed to develop joint preventive measures for 2024 and coordinate them at the national level.

✓ *The Central Asian Network of Academic Societies in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on April 26, 2023 and in Almaty, Kazakhstan on November*

11, 2023. The meetings were traditionally held in a hybrid format. Each event was attended by up to 30 representatives of universities from five Central Asian countries. As a result, training modules were planned for the courses: “Water Diplomacy and International Water Law” and “Rational Use of Water Resources” and educational programs were identified in which these courses could be used.

The stories of already implemented initiatives of network members were also discussed, the draft Charter of the Network was completed, and ways to expand cooperation within the thematic area “Water Diplomacy” were outlined.

In addition to the events of CAREC projects, the following were supported: a retreat session of the World Bank’s Sustainable Landscapes Program (RESILAND CA+) and a Coordination Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Switzerland. Meeting of young environmental leaders and coordination meeting of the regional network of climate NGOs of Central Asia.



Photo 21. Network of Academic Societies Meeting (Tashkent, April 26, 2023)



ACHIEVING CAREC STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic priority 4: Strengthening institutional arrangements and management systems within CAREC to implement this Strategy

Since December 2022, with the support of SDC (Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency), CAREC began implementing a project to institutionally strengthen CAREC. Its main goal is to introduce changes and innovations in the organization that will contribute to CAREC organizational development and institutional strengthening. These changes will be implemented by aligning the positioning of the organization and the management system as a whole, so that the organization has an appropriate organizational structure and operational mechanisms that will contribute to the implementation of CAREC's strategy and fulfillment of its mandate. Using its regional mandate, CAREC continues to implement its main mission - to promote environmental cooperation and address environmental challenges, using its accumulated expertise, attracting recognized and strong experts, and involving all interested parties. This project is a key in this stage of CAREC's development, since it is entirely aimed at giving "new breath" to the organization: at the moment, the foundation of the Monitoring and Evaluation system has been laid; the main organizational M&E indicators were identified; A reporting and planning system for project activities is being built in accordance with the requirements of international organizations, and a lot of work remains to be done. Diversification of funding

sources is one of the key directions in the process of CAREC institutional development, as it was proposed as an effective tool for ensuring the organization sustainability and financial solvency, taking into account its specific activities - activities based solely on the implementation of development projects. In particular, the following results were achieved in 2023 under the project:

Result 1: Creation of a knowledge management center to strengthen CAREC's reputation as a regional organization.

1. Development of a knowledge management strategy to establish a knowledge center based on CACIP.

To formulate a knowledge management strategy, CAREC analyzed available information products, identifying gaps in environmental data in Central Asia. As a result, approximately 223 sources of information were identified, which were integrated into CACIP to create the CAREC information portal. A repository containing existing data and information was also created, with expanded descriptions of data quality and data collection methods. This repository includes both public and private datasets, available for free or for a fee.

2. Development of a knowledge management plan for CAREC.

The plan aims to increase awareness of the Platform, its unique products and knowledge with quality information on the variety of products and services available to target groups. The plan includes a strategic approach to attract attention to CAREC's knowledge products and resources, covering various communication channels - both traditional and digital. Strategic information dissemination tactics are used to convey the benefits and value proposition of the Platform to intended recipients, such as policymakers, Central Asian legislators, local executive bodies, expert communities, researchers and organizations. The plan includes regular consultations and updates to maintain consistency and make amendments based on feedback.

3. Development of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of CACIP portal. A guide has been provided for the Central Asia Climate Information Platform, providing guidance for the use of the M&E system. This system is a key tool for monitoring program development and assessing user satisfaction. The guide aims to support managers, coordinators and program managers at regional and national levels, as well as national monitoring and evaluation experts.

It also aims to identify areas for improving CACIP effectiveness, with the dual purpose of monitoring and documenting program implementation methodically, as well as assessing the viability of strategies and actions, identifying differences between successful strategies and highlighting aspects that require additional effort or amendments.

Total result 2: Establishing effective financial management systems to improve organizational sustainability:

1. Integration of accounting and financial departments.

The merger of the accounting and finance functions under the project is a key in streamlining financial operations and developing a unified budget policy to ensure consistent and integrated management of project budgets and resources. This combination facilitated greater alignment between financial strategy and operational processes, providing greater insight into the organization's financial position. The combined department improved the efficiency and accuracy of financial reporting and resource allocation by eliminating duplication and promoting cross-functional collaboration.

2. Development of a consolidated accounting system in the 1C financial system.

In order to implement consolidated financial planning and reporting for various programs and projects, CAREC has taken a step towards creating a unified accounting system within the 1C financial system. This integration improves the accuracy and efficiency of financial reporting, providing a comprehensive view of the organization's financial position and making it easier to make better decisions.

Currently, terms of reference have been developed for an international financial consultant who will provide support to the chief financial specialist in the development of a unified accounting system that can potentially be integrated into the 1C financial system.

3. Update of CAREC Financial Handbook taking into account overhead costs and billing processes.

CAREC financial guide has been revised to take into account overhead costs, ensuring an equitable distribution of costs between programs and operations. Streamlined salary

grades were aligned with organizational human resource policies, internal job evaluations and a commitment to equity and competitiveness in remuneration. The updated guide also optimizes billing processes, which will improve financial reporting and resource management, providing employees with clear guidelines on financial practices and helping to create a smarter financial ecosystem.

4. Preparing standard budget planning plans taking into account expenses, required resources and forecasts.

Extensive financial and planning templates have been developed to provide an overview of cost analysis, resource allocation, project procedure and future forecasts. These standard forms provide a structured framework for effective planning and monitoring of financial resources, consistent with CAREC strategic objectives. These accurate, long-term tools make it easier to make informed decisions and provide the ability to make amendments to ensure financial success. Three different templates were developed and revised in collaboration with program managers.

5. Inclusion of direct project costs and unforeseen expenses in current and future projects. All current and future projects in Central Asia include direct project costs and contingencies in their implementation strategies. Overhead costs, in the amount of 7% and above depending on the project and donor, are provided to cover unforeseen expenses and reimbursement of CAREC costs and will also be used to provide services. These fees, consistent with CAREC principles, are included in the project management cost allocation detailed in the project budget and will be invoiced based on services actually provided

at the end of the year. These contingency allocations are intended to cover possible extra costs resulting from factors such as inflation, changes in staffing levels and unforeseen expenses.

Final result 3: Increasing institutional capacity to improve functions in the field of administrative, economic and program management:

1. Development and approval of a new organizational structure.

CAREC has successfully reviewed its organizational structure, significantly improving the coordination and management of its diverse programs and projects, including country offices. This updated structure simplifies the establishment of communication channels, promotes effective collaboration and streamlines decision-making processes at all organization levels. The new organizational structure effects CAREC commitment to optimizing operational effectiveness and strategic alignment. By clearly defining roles, responsibilities and reporting lines, the new structure promotes a well-coordinated work environment and empowers teams to promote projects with greater efficiency and synergy.

2. New principles in HR policy.

When revising CAREC HR policy, all requirements stipulated by the Labor Code of Kazakhstan were carefully taken into account. This policy now ensures full legal compliance of HR management practices, guaranteeing the rights and welfare of employees and the organization. Updated HR procedures promote a fair and transparent work environment, reduce potential legal risks, and increase employee satisfaction and engagement through

compliance with established labor standards.

3. Update terms of reference for key personnel and technical experts.

The revised terms of reference clearly define key performance indicators to ensure effective staff participation in the implementation of projects and programs. These updated terms of reference apply to core and technical personnel, providing a comprehensive framework that guides and evaluates their contributions to achieving organizational priorities and goals. A total of 23 employees and 18 key positions have been revised under the new organizational structure.

4. Conducting two training sessions on new strategies and procedures in the field of human resource management.

The purpose of two training sessions on new HR management policies and procedures is to provide employees with a thorough understanding of the organization, updated guidelines and protocols governing HR management. This initiative ensures that all employees are well-informed and in line with the latest developments in human resource management, promoting consistency, fairness and legal compliance in personnel issues. The training sessions helped to increase employee awareness and create a harmonious working environment in which CAREC employees act in accordance with the overall policy, benefiting both individual employees and the organization as a whole.

5. Terms of Reference (TOR) to attract an international expert (CIM) through GIZ was developed.

CAREC, in collaboration with GIZ, prepared draft terms of reference for hiring a German expert for the CIM program. The vacancy was announced by GIZ and a list of potential

candidates was compiled following recent updates. The final list of candidates will be provided upon completion of the recruitment process. This partnership represents a joint effort to attract specialized expertise, enhance mutual benefit and achieve the goals of both organizations.

The role of the Program Officer/Adviser to the Executive Director (CIM Expert) is to provide strategic guidance and operational support to the Executive Director. This position was created to enhance the overall effectiveness of CAREC policies, projects and partnerships, as well as to influence the organization's programs and initiatives in the Central Asian region. In addition, the program officer/adviser will take part in the development and implementation of the CAREC organizational development project.

Final result 4. Ensuring the quality of programs and informing internal and external stakeholders:

1. Development of quality assurance tools and templates for planning and reporting:

CAREC has successfully developed draft documents to ensure the quality of project implementation, including standard tools for assessing and ensuring high quality of projects and programs. These tools provide a structured methodology for assessing project outcomes and processes, increasing transparency and overall effectiveness of initiatives. CAREC continuously monitors progress, identifies areas for improvement, and informs project managers and stakeholders of the results.

After the implementation of new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, the senior M&E specialist successfully conducted two series of training sessions for CAREC staff together with

World Bank experts. The purpose of these training sessions is to equip CAREC staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively use the new frameworks and tools, ensuring comprehensive and accurate monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs.

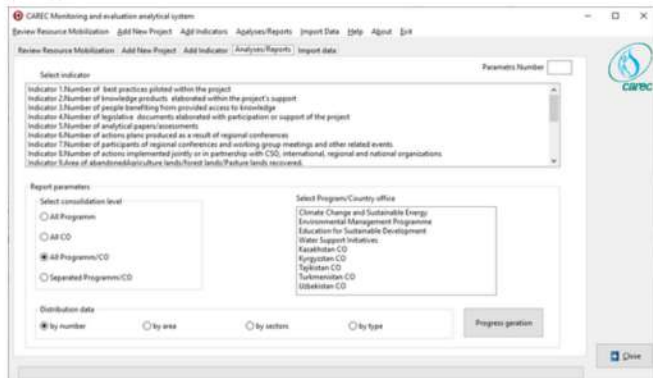


Figure 1. Interface of the main form of “Information system for monitoring and evaluation” software

After the implementation of new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, the senior M&E specialist successfully conducted two series of training sessions for CAREC staff together with World Bank experts. The purpose of these training sessions is to equip CAREC staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively use the new frameworks and tools, ensuring comprehensive and accurate monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs.

2. Creation of M&E database:

The M&E Specialist has developed a database that provides CAREC staff with the tools to effectively collect, manage and analyze project data. The database serves as a central repository of information, optimizing reporting and enabling informed decisions. The user-friendly interface allows employees to enter and extract data, create custom reports, and visualize project progress.

Row	Sectors	Areas
1	1. Agriculture and rural development	Crop Production
2	2. Agriculture and rural development	Livestock Pasture
3	3. Agriculture and rural development	Forestry
4	4. Agriculture and rural development	Fisheries And Aquaculture
5	5. Agriculture and rural development	Agricultural Machinery And Technology
6	6. Agriculture and rural development	Agricultural Services
7	7. Agriculture and rural development	Stimulating Business And Economic Diversity
8	8. Agriculture and rural development	Improving Farming Methods
9	9. Agriculture and rural development	Demonstration Of Modern Technologies
10	10. Agriculture and rural development	Ensuring Access To Financing
11	11. Agriculture and rural development	Ensuring Access To Medicine
12	12. Agriculture and rural development	Ensuring Access To Education
13	13. Agriculture and rural development	Ensuring Access To Clean Water
14	14. Biodiversity	Variety Of Crops
15	15. Biodiversity	Conservation Of Natural Ecosystems And Species
16	16. Biodiversity	Soil Biological Diversity
17	17. Biodiversity	Organic Farming
18	18. Biodiversity	Special Areas For Nature Conservation (Spina)
19	19. Biodiversity	Education And Awareness
20	20. Climate Change	Greenhouse Gases, Emissions Reduction
21	21. Climate Change	Melting Of Ice And Glaciers
22	22. Climate Change	Extreme Weather Events
23	23. Climate Change	Mitigation
24	24. Climate Change	Adaptation
25	25. Climate Change	Implementation Of Policies And International Agreements
26	26. Climate Change	Sustainable Practices
27	27. Climate Change	Education And Public Opinion
28	28. Culture, science art, Public associations	Science

Figure 2. General view of the database structure of the Monitoring and Evaluation Information System

3. M&E indicators:

A matrix of indicators has been developed to help CAREC achieve its strategic priorities. Indicators are successfully integrated into the organization's core operating templates, such as annual work plans, quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports, as well as M&E projects and plans. Individual indicators were developed and adapted to each project, serving as a tool for achieving project goals and responding to CAREC strategic framework.

During the period from August 7-11, 2023, an external audit of the organization was carried out as part of the project, which confirmed the compliance of organizational processes and project implementation with established standards and goals.

The audit was a success, reflecting the high level of efficiency and compliance with regulatory requirements in CAREC activities.

The audit revealed several minor recommendations aimed at even more precise alignment of processes and improving operational efficiency. However, overall, these recommendations did not have a significant impact on the overall assessment of the organization's performance.

During the audit, transparency and responsibility in CAREC activities were highlighted, which helps to strengthen confidence on the part of internal and external interested partners. The audit results highlighted that the organization operates in accordance with best practice, which in turn strengthens its reputation and long-term sustainability. In the context of external audit, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system is highlighted, which demonstrates a high level of integration into CAREC activities. The audit confirmed that the M&E system is actively used to continuously improve projects and programs, as well as to achieve the organization strategic goals.

The M&E indicators were found to be reliable and relevant, providing a sound basis for decision-making at all management levels.

Particular attention is paid to innovative methods and tools introduced during the project. Auditors highly appreciated the implementation of M&E database, noting it as an effective mechanism for collecting, managing and analyzing data. This tool significantly improves the availability and accuracy of information, which in turn facilitates informed decision making and ensures responsible reporting to stakeholders. An integral part of a successful audit is the openness and readiness for improvement shown by CAREC during the audit. Recommendations made by auditors are considered by the organization as a valuable contribution to its ongoing development. Joint efforts to implement the recommendations will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and projects aimed at achieving CAREC strategic goals and mission.



PARTNERS

To avoid duplication of efforts, mutual strengthening and use of synergies, in 2023 CAREC coordinated its efforts and collaborated on joint projects with the following groups of partners:

Conventions: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention; Donor countries: European Union, Swiss Agency for Development, German Society for International Cooperation.

International organizations: OSCE Program Office in Nur-Sultan and OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UN Economic Commission for Europe, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Environment Program Copenhagen Climate Center and Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency. German Consulting Bureau adelphi, Association for the Promotion of Recycling and Environmental Protection in Austria, STENUM Asia Sustainable Development Society, Energy and Resources Institute.

Civil society organizations: more than 25 non-profit organizations of Central Asia are presented in Annex 5.

Financial institutions: World Bank, Green Climate Fund, Coca-Cola International Development Fund Regional partners: International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination.

Business organizations: National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan. This project is a key in this stage of CAREC development, since it is entirely aimed at giving

“new breath” to the organization: at the moment, the foundation of the Monitoring and Evaluation system has been laid; the main organizational M&E indicators were identified; a reporting and planning system for project activities is built in accordance with the requirements



FINANCIAL DATA

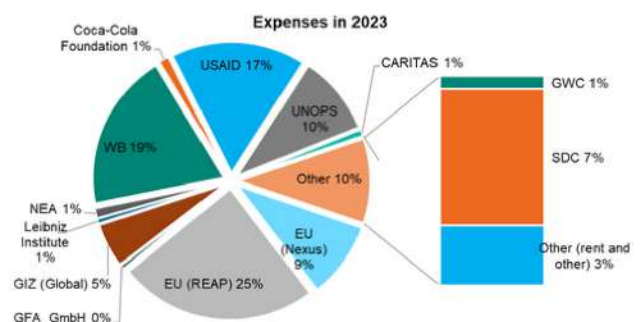
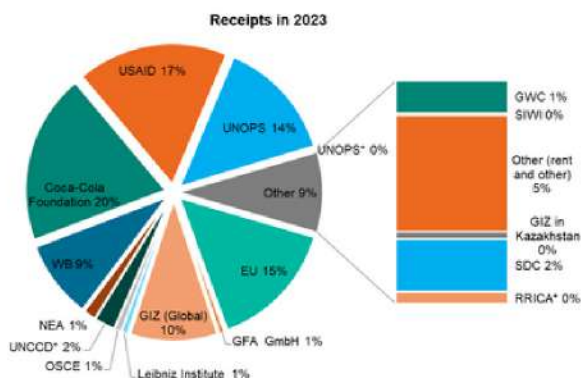
These financial data have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, based on estimates from January 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023. Expenses for the fourth quarter will be updated at the end of the 2023 fiscal year.

The CAREC financial activities in 2023 will be audited during 2024. All data are recalculated at the average euro exchange rate of 498.35.

**Receipts from these donors are reimbursement for expenses occurring in 2023.*

Donors	Amount of receipts in 2023 (at the average rate in euros)
EU	€316 117,16
GFA GmbH	€11 012,00
GIZ (Global)	€212 802,29
Leibniz Institute	€15 320,00
OSCE	€16 657,30
UNCCD*	€50 000,00
NEA	€29 974,00
WB	€189 850,87
Coca-Cola Foundation	€416 313,89
USAID	€369 427,54
UNOPS	€296 601,85
UNOPS*	€3 711,11
GWC	€27 777,78
SIWI	€2 291,67
Other (rent and other)	€99 509,42
GIZ B PK	€5 677,69
SDC	€45 369,91
RRICA*	€10 405,14
TOTAL	€2 118 819,61

Donors	Amount of expenses in 2023 (at average rate in euros)
EU (Nexus)	€227 458,45
EU (REAP)	€593 073,15
GFA GmbH	€11 000,00
GIZ (Global)	€131 258,45
Leibniz Institute	€14 984,79
NEA	€ 29 974,00
WB	€470 351,42
Coca-Cola Foundation	€30 395,00
USAID	€400 572,56
UNOPS	€237 962,96
CARITAS	€19 859,91
GWC	€ 15 000,00
SDC	€164 511,47
Other (rent and other)	€ 72 318,00
TOTAL	€2 418 720,16



By the end of the year, it is expected to receive (refund) the amount from previously completed projects (NEXUS) from the EU, from the Blue Piece project (SDC) and Strengthening the potential of Turkmenistan and support in the development of country programs from UNOPS.

CONCLUSION

CAREC activities in 2023 used tools that support peace, stability and the development of regional cooperation in Central Asia:

- Diplomatic: Create a safe space for dialogue, encourage exchange, promote inclusion of all parties.
- Political: Improve common understanding of natural resource management and promote transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making at all government levels.
- Technical: Capacity building and sharing of data used in decision-making processes, as well as provision of new methods and technologies.
- Financial: development of innovative financial instruments that facilitate cross-sectoral and cross-border investments in water resources (Blue Peace Index, Water Footprint analysis).

To implement projects, CAREC has traditionally relied on expert potential in Central Asian countries, including the assessment of civil society organizations, and attracted international assessment in building a system of transparency of climate actions, developing water diplomacy skills, and access to climate finance.

Knowing the potential of thematic networks and working groups that ensure the building of a factual base and reliable data based on

common approaches and common understanding, ensure regional knowledge exchange and sustainability of results, CAREC continued to work with the regional group of representatives of the MFA and parliaments, the group on monitoring quality and quantity of water resources, Central Asia network of academic societies, including communities of research practitioners on water and sanitation, and water diplomacy, with the regional network of the Ramsar Convention. Three new regional working groups have been created: on greenhouse gas inventories, on adaptation and calculation of losses and damages, as well as on climate finance and the network “Women in Water Resources Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan”. Regional cooperation on climate change issues has been significantly strengthened through the establishment of regular dialogues involving representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and members of national parliaments. This initiative is a key milestone project aimed at facilitating the participation of various stakeholders, including legislators, NGOs and youth, in the development of regional statements for the Conference of the Parties (CoP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To support these efforts, the regional team successfully secured additional estimated

funding of \$50,000 from USAID, complementing the previously raised \$240,000 from GIZ. The regional team subsequently expanded the agenda of the Central Asia Climate Change Conference, which took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, by adding four additional panel discussions. These discussions covered important topics such as standardization and labeling of energy-saving technologies, a roadmap for harmonizing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the regional level, international climate resilience practices, and a summary of post-CoP28 activities and plans. During the reporting period, the Regional Team actively implemented a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening capacity and stimulating policy dialogue to improve regional cooperation on climate policy and exchange of experience among Central Asian countries. Past events included an online conference analyzing the results of the Paris Agreement, with a focus on Article 6 and opportunities for joint approaches in Central Asia. A hybrid conference, aimed at strengthening regional dialogue in the context of preparations for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was also held as part of the activities of the Regional Coordination Unit. We also note the holding of the 8th meeting of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and parliamentarians of the Central Asian countries, dedicated to climate change, as well as a series of online meetings with coordinators of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

An important aspect of the Regional Coordination Unit activities were online meetings with the participation of coordinators for the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change, aimed at discussing key issues and coordinating actions within regional strategies. In addition, a series of presentations of the Central Asia Climate Information Platform took place, aimed at uniting countries in the region in climate information, regional investment options and opportunities. These initiatives have contributed to improved regional exchanges and bilateral communications between National Coordination Teams, creating stronger climate policy nodes and supporting sustainable development of Central Asian countries in the context of climate change challenges. In addition to conferences and meetings, the Regional Coordination Unit actively promoted the development of regional climate knowledge through experience-sharing initiatives. It contributed to the creation and strengthening of the Central Asia Climate Information Platform, which became a center for the exchange of advanced scientific research, technological solutions and experience in climate adaptation. This has allowed countries in the region to more effectively use existing knowledge and experience to develop their own climate policy strategies and solutions. In addition, the Regional Coordination Unit has stimulated regional climate investment options. It organized sessions for sharing experiences and dialogue between representatives of the business community, financial institutions and government bodies to create a platform that promotes investment in projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable use of natural resources and development of green technologies. These measures contribute to strengthening the financial solvency and sustainable development of the region in a changing climate. The 5th Central Asia Climate Change Conference

(CACCC-2023) was held on May 16-17, 2023 in the picturesque city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The conference was organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) under the program “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB AF) and project “Central Asia Dialogue: Fostering water, energy and food security links and multi-sector investment” (NEXUS). The conference was held jointly with the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, PROGREEN and the Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP), a partnership between the World Bank, the European Union, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.**

The conference sought to bring together stakeholders from various sectors to discuss sustainability of water, energy, food and the environment in the context of the changing climate in Central Asia. Participants were provided with information on the progress of Central Asian countries in climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the conference addressed current issues such as cross-sectoral climate resilience, regional and international cooperation platforms and sectoral strategies at the national and local levels.

Participants delved into discussions of progress, challenges and gaps in climate commitments of Central Asian countries. Special attention was paid to the governance and financial mechanisms required for effective implementation of sectoral strategies. Valuable ideas were presented on the potential for regional cooperation, with a focus on the results of Central Asian countries' participation in COP27 of the UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change and plans for COP28. Government officials and international development partners interacted to discuss challenges and opportunities for strengthening the sustainability of water, energy, food and the environment. The implications of the Water, Energy, Food and Environment (WEFE) approach were discussed in detail. Representatives of the ministries of economic development, environmental protection, ecology, water, agriculture, energy and hydrometeorological services, as well as other departments of the Central Asian countries actively participated in CACCC-2023. The representatives of international organizations, multilateral development banks, the expert community, youth leaders, scientific institutions, public organizations and business representatives also participated in the conference. The resonant success of the 5th Central Asia Climate Change Conference is reflected in collective efforts and significant interactions. Held in the picturesque city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the conference served as a forge of diverse interests.

An analysis of the implementation of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB), the regional component of which was led by CAREC, demonstrates impressive statistics of the project's impact on more than 80,839 people (55% women), the creation of 6,799 thousand permanent and 12,452 seasonal additional jobs, increasing the income of almost 11,000 farmers ranging from 30% up to 79%, creating 910 new peasant farms and restoring a total area of abandoned land of 354,200 hectares.

Main challenges of the year

The challenge of the year was the submission of

the Regional Readiness project to the Green Climate Fund. Aimed at creating a regional mechanism to support national focal points and stakeholders to prepare and submit joint, well-designed applications to the Green Climate Fund, the project required letters of support and funds from all countries involved. This turned out to be an unusual modality for working with CAREC and delayed the application process. Preparations for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28), Dubai, UAE, December 2023. This is the second experience of countries and CAREC in organizing a joint pavilion at the UNFCCC COP. Despite the great interest of countries and partners in this platform, preparations require full involvement and commitment from representatives of all parties involved.

The first experience of preparing the Central Asia Pavilion at COP26 in Glasgow, UK (November 2021) proved the great demand for this platform among countries and partners. 23 events were held there for more than 2,000 participants. The Pavilion's slogan

“Five countries, one region, one voice” was a red line at all 13 regional events and was included in regional statements from countries and civil society organizations. Preparations for the participation of the Central Asian region at COP28 and the organization of the Central Asia Pavilion were also based on request of national partners and interest of development partners. However, such coordination is not included in

the institutional structures of countries and is voluntary and optional until a decision is made on the participation of high-level representatives (often in the last days before the event). This activity is very difficult to coordinate, expensive and impossible to plan for required results. In addition to the previously mentioned challenges, it is worth highlighting three more significant aspects that represent additional challenges:

1. **New Reporting Requirements:** With increasingly stringent international climate reporting standards and requirements, Central Asian countries are faced with the need to adapt their national reporting mechanisms. This poses a challenge in developing more detailed and accurate data on emissions, adaptation measures and results achieved.

2. **Mobilizing Finance:** The transition to sustainable development and fight against climate change require significant investment. The challenge arisen is to mobilize funding at both the national and regional levels. Ensuring the financial solvency of projects and programs is a complex task requiring active involvement of various sources of financing.

3. **Creation of Educational Tools:** The growing need for education and awareness on climate change poses a challenge for the region to develop effective educational tools. This includes not only the formation of new courses and programs, but also the involvement of the public, youth and businesses in educational initiatives.



ANNEXES

Annex No.1 List of CAREC projects implemented in 2023

#	Project name	Donor	Project start	Project end	Budget	
					Total	Co-financing
Regional projects						
1	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) Additional funding	WB	19.10.2021	31.05.2024	USD 1 000 000	
2	Nexus dialogue in CA (Phase 2)	EU	03.06.2020	02.02.2023	EUR 1 250 000	EUR 250 000
3	Secretariat of the High Level Dialogue Platform in Central Asia (BLUE PEACE CA Phase I)	SDC	01.04.2018	30.09.2023	USD 794 167	
4	Resource Efficiency in Agri-Food Production and Processing (REAP)	EU	01.03.2020	29.02.2024	EUR 2 958 871	EUR 591 775
5	Central Asian Leadership Program	OSCE Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Coca-cola	18.09.2023	22.09.2023	EUR 29638	
6	Implementation of the Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia (ReCATH)	ICAT/UNO PS	01.11.2021	01.01.2024	USD 991 654	-
7	USAID Regional Water and Vulnerable Environment Activity (WAVE)	TetraTeck	10.08.2020	31.07.2025	USD 1 665 493	-
8	Project on Organizational Development of the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	01.01.2023	31.12.2024	USD 433 922	

9	Project to adapt the ICAT methodology for agriculture and the ICAT guidance on links between Articles 6 and 13 for Central Asian countries	UNOPS	01.01.2024	01.06.2024	USD 130 000	
National projects						
10	Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of country parties to the Convention at the national level in order to improve monitoring and reporting on the UNCCD (Turkmenistan)	UNEP	31.08.2022	31.12.2024	USD 91 324	
11	Strengthening the institutional and professional capacity of country parties to the Convention at the national level in order to improve monitoring and reporting on the UNCCD (Tajikistan)	UNEP	31.08.2022	31.12.2024	USD 91 324	
12	Development of the Environmental Code of the Republic of Tajikistan	World Bank	28.09.2023	27.05.2023	USD 440 013	
13	Climate-resilient integrated water resources management in the Zarafshan River basin, Uzbekistan (UN20)	SDC	01.11.2023	30.10.2026	CHF 523 123	
14	“Conducting the 2nd National Forest Inventory of Kyrgyzstan and increasing capacity”	World Bank	25.04.2019	30.09.2023	USD 1 187 017	
15	Project on Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH III) of the Cartagena Protocol	UNEP-GEF	01.03.2021	30.04.2023	USD 15 000	

ANNEXES

Annex No.2 List of seminars and trainings held in 2023

#	Date	Seminar/training	Venue	Number of participants (male, female)
Under the World Bank project "Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB)". Additional funding				
1	19.04.2023	Ninth meeting of representatives of the MFA and parliaments of Central Asian countries on climate change issues	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	47 (M37/F10)
2	16-17.05.2023	5th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC)	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	300 (M61%/F39%)
3	11-15.05.2023	Training for Central Asian media representatives	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	17 (M8/F9)
Seminars in Kyrgyzstan				
4	30.06.2023	Meeting with environmental NGOs in Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	21 (M9/F11)
5	16.03.2023	Round table to discuss procedures and mechanisms to ensure sustainability of effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Cartagena Protocol	Bishkek	23 (M8/F15)
6	25.10.2023	Final seminar on presenting the results of the 2nd National Forest Inventory in Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	43 (M22 /F21)
7	31.10.2023	Opening seminar on the project "Increasing economic	Bishkek	28 (M11/F17)

		independence and improving the status of women in CA rural areas through access to irrigation water and infrastructure”		
Under the European Union project “Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment” (Phase II)				
8	02.22.2023	Special event to promote green investments based on the WEF Nexus approach	Rome, Italy	42(M19/F23)
9	06.06.2023	Nexus Exhibition at Europe Day	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	-
10	16-17.06.2023	Final Nexus Conference at CACIP-2023	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	60(M36/F24)
11	19-20.06.2023	Exhibition of Central Asia Nexus Dialogue Project at the final conference of the Regional Nexus Dialogue Program	Bonn, Germany	-
12	3-8.07.2023	Training on the Nexus approach (including Nexus game) in Tajikistan	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	40(M34/F6)
Under the European Union project “Resource Efficiency in Agri-food Production and Processing (REAP)”				
13	28.02.2023-02.03.2023	Meeting of REAP project partners	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	14 (M6/F8)
14	06.05.2023	Exhibition of the REAP project at Europe Day	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	-
15	16-17.05.2023	Exhibition of the REAP project at CACIP-2023	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	-
16	04.07.2023	Workshop on green technology financing for financial institutions in Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	14 (M12/F2)
17	07.07.2023	Workshop on green technology financing for MSMBs in Uzbekistan	Fergana, Uzbekistan	40 (M38/F2)
18	11.07.2023	Workshop on green technology financing for financial institutions in Tajikistan	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	23 (M13/F10)
19	14.07.2023	Workshop on green technology financing for	Khorog, Tajikistan	31 (M11/F20)

		MSMBs in Tajikistan		
20	28.11.2023	Workshop on drawing up a business plan for clusters in Uzbekistan	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	11 (M9/F2)
21	24.12.2023	Online meeting of REAP project partners	Online	14 (M6/F8)
Under the project "Central Asian Environmental Leadership Program for Sustainable Development"				
22	18-22.09.2023	13th Central Asian Environmental Leadership Program for Sustainable Development	Almaty, Kazakhstan	15(M7/F8)
Under the project "High-Level Dialogue Platform Secretariat in Central Asia" (BLUE PEACE)				
23	26.04.2023	Co-hosting a meeting of the Network of Academic Societies	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	24 (M10/F14)
24	01.01.2023-31.12.2023	A series of online/offline meetings to promote the Cop4WASH Community of Practitioners and Researchers	online/Khujand, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	23 (M13/F10) 13 (M7/F8) 13 (M7/F8)
25	17.05.2023	Blue Peace CA session "Climate Change impacts on transboundary water resources from source to sea" under CACCC - 2023	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	7 (M 6/F 1)
26	07.06.2023	Blue Peace CA panel session on inter-basin and intergenerational dialogue within the International Conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of IFAS "Central Asia: towards a sustainable future through strong regional institution"	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	9 (M4/F5) incl. 2 Youth
27	18-22.09.2023	Water Day under the 13th Central Asian Environmental Leadership Program for Sustainable Development	Almaty, Kazakhstan	15 (M 7/F8)
28	20-23.11.2023	Training for trainers (teachers) on Water Diplomacy and International Water Law	Almaty, Kazakhstan	59 (M26/F33)
29	24.11.2023	Joint holding of the meeting	Almaty,	45 (M17/F28)

34	27-28.04.2023	Regional workshop on CAWAMNET Network	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	27 (M16/F11)
Under the project "Implementation of the Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia" (ReCATH)				
35	31.01.2023	Expanding cooperation with key international partners in the field of transparency	Online	6 (M1/F5)
36	02.22.2023	Special event to promote green investment based on the WEP Nexus approach	Rome, Italy	42(M19/F23)
37	26.02.2023-03.03.2023	Regional practical training: Improving data collection and data management tools for greenhouse gas inventories in Central Asian countries	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	23(M11/F12)
38	16-17.05.2023	5th Central Asia Climate Change Conference (CACCC)	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	300 (M183/F117)
39	18.05.2023-19.05.2023	Regional Practical Training: Improving data collection and analytical tools for forecasting greenhouse gas emissions in Central Asian countries	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	23(M16/F13)
40	20.06.2023	Regional Training: Climate Finance Tracking: Reporting, Methodologies and Best Practices	Online	49(M21/F26)
41	13-14.07.2023	First meeting of the technical working group on climate adaptation	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	42(M15/F27)
42	25-28.07.2023	Deep dive into the process of tracking NDC climate commitments under the Paris Agreement Training workshop for the countries of Eurasia, Central Asia and the Caucasus	Almaty, Kazakhstan	33(M12/F21)
43	08.08.2023	Working meeting to develop methodological guidelines for filling out the chapter on HFC and Waste	Online	33(M3/F9)
44	25-29.09.2023	Regional workshop on technical support: Institutional mechanisms	Istanbul, Turkey	22(M13/F9)

		and cross-sectoral issues of greenhouse gas inventories in Central Asian countries		
45	09-12.10.2023	Regional practical training: Capacity building on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures, measurement, reporting and verification in the field of mitigation and tracking of NDCs in Central Asian countries.	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	22(M12/F13)
46	03.12.2023	Using transparency to implement ambitious NDCs in Central Asia	COP28, Dubai, UAE	24 (M12/F12)
47	04.12.2023	Central Asian approach to climate action transparency (or CA in the way of BTR preparation)	COP28, Dubai, UAE	33 (M16/F17)
48	07.02.2023 10.02.2023	Training for trainers on interactive Nexus Simulation in Turkmenistan	Ashgabat and Dashoguz, Turkmenistan	36(M28.F8)
49	25.04.2023	National celebration of Amudarya River Day in Uzbekistan (logistics organization)	Nukus, Uzbekistan	66(M25.F41)
50	26.04.2023	Meeting of participants of the Network of Academic Societies	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	24(M10.F14)
51	27.04.2023	National celebration of Amudarya River Day in Turkmenistan (logistics organization)	Dashoguz, Turkmenistan	66(M49.F17)
52	03.05.2023	National celebration of Amudarya River Day in Tajikistan (logistics organization)	Nurek, Tajikistan	75(M48.F27)
53	15.05.2023	National celebration of Amudarya River Day in Kyrgyzstan (logistics organization)	Daroot-Korgon, Kyrgyzstan	69(M28.F41)
54	29-30.08.2023	National workshop on Decision Support (RDS) for the Amu Darya River Basin	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	12(M7/F5)
55	27.09.2023	Regional celebration of Amudarya River Day (logistics organization)	Khiva, Uzbekistan	52(M36.F16)
56	02-03.11.2023	Workshop on basin planning	Ashgabat,	19 (M1/F 2)

		and management	Turkmenistan	
57	24.11.2023	Meeting of the Network of Academic Societies "NAS role in strengthening regional cooperation"	Almaty, Kazakhstan	45 (M17/F28)
58	15.02.2023	Online consultation with members of the RRI-CA network on a new network project	online	16(M10/F6)
59	26.01.2023	Introductory meeting on the Organizational Development project with the participation of representatives of the Project Steering Committee	online	13 (M7/F6)
60	03.05.2023	Meeting of employees (retreat) under the project	online	38 (M14/F24)
61	30.06.2023	Meeting of employees to familiarize with the current project status (as part of the audit)	online	37 (M15/F22)
62	23.11.2023	Regular meeting on the Organizational Development project with the participation of representatives of the Project Steering Committee	online	9 (M5/F4)
63	23.02.2023-03.03.2023	Training course for Forest Service on open source tools for GIS and remote sensing, 4 parts	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	13 (M6/F7)
64	31.03.2023-04.04.2023	Training for Forest Service engaged in data analysis Database, part 1	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	12 (M5/F7)
65	12-14.04.2023	Training for Forest Service involved in data analysis Database, part 2	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	8 (M3/F5)
66	20.09.2023	Training for Forest Service on the use of Dashboard of NFI 2.	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	14 (M8/F6)
67	23.06.2023	Extended meeting "Regional Dialogue of Central Asian Countries on joint preparation for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change"	Electronic format	30 (M20/F10)
68	24.07.2023	1st meeting of country	Almaty,	32 (M26/F6)

		representatives to prepare a Regional Statement from Central Asian countries at COP28 UNFCCC	Republic of Kazakhstan	
69	19.09.2023	1st meeting of the Working Group to support the functioning of the Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28	Electronic format	20 (M15/F5)
70	03.10.2023	2nd meeting of the Working Group to support the functioning of the Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28	Electronic format	20 (M15/F5)
71	10.10.2023	Training "Information session on Review of the UNFCCC COP28 agenda and opportunities for Central Asian countries"	Electronic format	20 (M15/F5)
72	13.10.2023	3rd meeting of the Working Group to support the functioning of the Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28	Electronic format	20 (M15/F5)
73	17.10.2023	4th meeting of the Working Group to support the functioning of the Central Asia Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP28	Electronic format	20 (M15/F5)
74	July-October 2023	A series of meetings of countries' nominated representatives to prepare a regional statement from Central Asian countries for presentation at UNFCCC COP-28	Electronic format	23 (M15/F8)
75	June-October 2023	Series of NGO Climate Network meetings to prepare a regional civil society statement for presentation at UNFCCC COP28	online	51 (M10/F41)
76	07.11.2023	Coordination meeting of the Central Asian countries before the UNFCCC COP-28 within the Regional Forum "Central Asia on the way to the 28th Conference	Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan	208 (M135/F73)

		of the Parties to the UNFCCC: 5 countries - 1 region - 1 vote.”		
77	03.12.2023	Tenth meeting of representatives of the MFA and parliaments of Central Asian countries on climate change, December 2023	Dubai, UAE	34 (M26/F8)
78	30-12.07.2023	Side events at the Central Asia Pavilion at COP28	Dubai, UAE	859

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Annex No.3 List of Publications and knowledge products released in 2023

#	Knowledge product name	Language	Link
Environmental Management Program (EMP)			
1	Краткое описание проекта Нексус (Фаза-2)	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/18cx0BL7AK8rGCuivqZQQOggabqqtVqFC/view
2	Nexus project fact sheet	English	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BliOalpQdydxDnLYS5zI-yDnXW8rEUK/view
3	Лист с QR-кодами ключевых публикаций проекта Нексус	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c8PWu_OqGRFt5DXqm59fqwduvRKAefl1/view
4	Sheet with QR-codes of Nexus project key publications	English	https://drive.google.com/file/d/17uDqcWHLcNFcoHW_ansk67HHtGNVcUi/view
5	Nexus demo projects in Central Asia	English	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pecml5zUul-hYAdBhrDHSru3lMAJtaql/view
6	Что такое Нексус и почему это важно знать? Иллюстрированная книга	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOeEsXuNlpb6-DPEC5M84OP7M67Woj1q/view
7	Предпосылки и задачи реализации Нексус демо проектов в ЦА, информационная брошюра	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hQUGCtNUIGol2EsBvca8l/hGKeVG5PYd/view
8	Предпосылки и задачи реализации Нексус демо проектов в ЦА (краткая информационная брошюра)	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/16z_KQz1VEUqXt_1qtY8HCUEQABvQAUH1/view
9	Factsheet on Nexus demonstration projects in Central Asia (brief information brochure)	English	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zDZcfdH4VlzOqPMnJVt05RMq06p_9uXM/view
10	Инвестиционное предложение по цифровизации счетчиков по мониторингу потребления электричества на насосных станциях в Согдийской области Таджикистана	Russian	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bUc-0lcXruGf2yGcx-C9fJPfAZhBwqou/view
11	Nexus story: Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea, 2023	English	https://www.water-energy-food.org/stories/afforestation

			-of-the-dried-bottom-of-the-aral-sea-piloting-a-closed-root-system
12	Nexus story: Ensuring the WEF security through advancing the energy efficiency at pumping stations and digitalization of the metering in the Republic of Tajikistan, 2023	English	https://www.water-energy-food.org/stories/ensuring-the-wef-security-through-advancing-the-energy-efficiency-at-pumping-stations-and-digitalization-of-the-metering-in-the-republic-of-tajikistan
13	Nexus story: Transforming the challenge into opportunity: recycling the sediment to promote the transboundary cooperation and WEF security through innovative solutions, 2023	English	https://www.water-energy-food.org/stories/transboundary-demonstration-project-between-uzbekistan-and-turkmenistan
14	Казахстан при поддержке международных партнеров может создать стабильную экологическую систему Аральского моря – эксперт	Russian	https://www.inform.kz/ru/kazahstan-pri-podderzhke-mezhdunarodnyh-partnerov-mozhet-sozdat-stabil-nuyu-ekologicheskuyu-sistemu-aral-skogo-morya-ekspert-a4040973
15	Статья: Инвестирование многосекторальных проектов в Центральной Азии: вызовы и возможности	Russian	https://carececo.org/publications/nexus/Финальная%20на%20публикацию%20Статья%20по%20Румы%20рус.pdf
16	Article: Investing in multi sectoral projects in Central Asia: challenges and opportunities, 2023	English	https://carececo.org/publications/nexus/Финальная%20на%20публикацию%20Статья%20по%20Румы%20eng.pdf
17	Климат, который нас изменит: о последствиях высыхания Аральского моря высказались эксперты на конференции в Душанбе	Russian	https://inkaraganda.kz/main-news/klimat-kotoryj-nas-izmenit-o-posledstvijah-vysyhaniya-aralskogo-morja-vyskazalis-jeksperty-na-konferencii-v-dushanbe/
18	Саксаул на дне Арала создаст кормовую базу для овец	Russian	https://eldala.kz/novosti/kazahstan/14513-caksaul-na-dne-arala-sozdast-kormovuyu-bazu-dlya-ovec
19	Нексус – игра для премьер-министров и министров. Смогут ли страны-соседи найти компромисс по совместному использованию водных ресурсов?	Russian	https://nuz.uz/obschestvo/1279040-neksus-igra-dlya-premer-ministrov-i-ministrov-smogut-li-strany-sosedni-najti-kompromiss-po-sovmestnomu-ispolzovaniyu-vodnyh-resursov.html
20	Нексус игра. История и реальность	Tajik	https://www.facebook.com/TRKAsiaHD/videos/13650678

			10708532/
Education for Sustainable development Programme (ESD)			
21	Круглый стол по вопросам национальной политики по устойчивому потреблению и производству (Узбекистан)	Russian	https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/ru/publications/umogoe-ye-dokumenty-voprosam-natsiona/
22	National Policy Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Uzbekistan)	English	https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/publications/final-documents-on-national-policy-issues-on-sustainable-consumption-and-production-in-tajikistan-and-uzbekistan-2023/
23	Круглый стол по вопросам национальной политики по устойчивому потреблению и производству (Таджикистан)	Russian	https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/ru/publications/umogoe-ye-dokumenty-voprosam-natsiona/
24	National Policy Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Tajikistan)	English	https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/publications/final-documents-on-national-policy-issues-on-sustainable-consumption-and-production-in-tajikistan-and-uzbekistan-2023/
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program (CCSE)			
25	Методика написания главы национальной инвентаризации по ГФУ и ПФУ	Russian	not yet published
26	Чек-лист по написания главы национальной инвентаризации по ГФУ и ПФУ	Russian	not yet published
27	Шаблон главы национальной инвентаризации по ГФУ и ПФУ	Russian	not yet published
28	Обзор развития «зеленой» экономики и роль климатической прозрачности в Центральной Азии	Russian	https://centralasiacclimateportal.org/ru/publications/obzor-razvitiya-zelenoy-ekonomiki-i/
29	Overview of green economy development and the role of climate transparency in Central Asia	English	not yet published
Water Initiative Support Program (WISP)			
30	Анализ водного следа в Центральной Азии	Russian	https://bluepeace-

			centralasia.ch/ru/knowledge/publications/analiz-vodnogo-sleda-v-tsentralnoy-azii/
31	Water Footprint Analysis of Central Asia	English	https://bluepeace-centralasia.ch/knowledge/publications/-/
32	Диалог за устойчивое будущее: взгляды экспертов на сотрудничество в бассейне Аральского моря (3 интервью)	Russian	https://bluepeace-centralasia.ch/ru/knowledge/publications/-/
33	Sustainable Future Dialogue: Expert Perspectives on Cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin (3 interviews)	English	https://bluepeace-centralasia.ch/eng/knowledge/publications/-/

ANNEXES

Annex No.4 List of training materials and courses prepared in 2023

#	Material/training	Language	Link to online training
1	Training module on the Nexus approach (adapted for Central Asia)	Russian	https://www.riverbp.net/community_of_practice/hub/webinars/treningovye_moduly/treningovyy-modul-po-neksus-podkhodu-adaptirovan-pod-tsentralnuyu-aziyu/
2	Conference materials, including the program, presentations, information about moderators and speakers are posted on the CAREC official website	Russian, English	https://carececo.org/main/activity/mettings/cakik-2023/
3	Webinar on data collection and analysis for writing chapters of the national inventory (cadastre) on HFCs and Waste	Russian	https://www.carececo.org/main/activity/project_events/seminar-trening-po-transparentnosti-dannykh-v-oblasti-inventarizatsii-v-tashkente/
4	Online course on water resources management for Civil Service Academy under the President of Turkmenistan. The course includes 140 lectures, 10 practical lessons and test material. The course is designed for both offline teaching and online learning	Turkmen, Russian	riverbp.net , https://turkmenwater.gov.tm/
5	Training course on Integrated Water Resources Management for Ashgabat Agricultural University and Dashoguz Agricultural Institute;	Turkmen, Russian	riverbp.net and on the website of the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan
6	Review article on the readiness of the region	Russian, English	https://carececo.org/main/activity/projects/recath/

	countries for the “green” transition. The article includes an analytical digest of existing strategies and plans of CA countries, as well as collected data on existing projects and initiatives in green economy and transparency.		
7	Methodological guide for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories by chapters that cause the greatest difficulties in CA. The guide includes a step-by-step checklist for collecting and analyzing data for compiling GHG inventories, and chapter templates.	Russian, English	https://carececo.org/main/activity/projects/recath/
8	Course, study materials and syllabus on “Water Diplomacy and International Water Law”	Russian	https://www.riverbp.net/
9	Guidelines for ensuring forest data quality in Kyrgyzstan	Russian, English	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1D3XrHLk2Jr3BmG47MZMINWDVrVfo2SB4
10	Methodology for forest inventory in Kyrgyzstan	Russian, English	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1D3XrHLk2Jr3BmG47MZMINWDVrVfo2SB4
11	Training modules on processing data from the National Forest Inventory in Kyrgyzstan	Russian, English	CAREC-UNIQUEWnextCloud\1-WorkFolder-NFI-KYR\Obj_4_analyze&report\T4-4 Training to the SAEFP staff dealing with the data analysis
12	Prototype cleantech financing product for local financial institutions	Russian, English	https://www.carececo.org/main/news/reap-finansirovanie-ekologicheskii-chistykh-tehnologiy-dlya-mmsp/ https://www.carececo.org/main/news/reap-finansirovanie-ekologicheskii-chistykh-tehnologiy-dlya-finansovykh-institutov/ https://www.carececo.org/main/news/reap-kak-mmsp-uzbekistana-mogut-poluchit-finansirovanie-ekologicheskii-

			chistyx-tekhnologiy-/ https://www.carececo.org/main/ news/reap-kak-poluchit- finansirovanie-ekologicheskikh- tekhnologiy-dlya- finansovykh-institutov-v-uz/
13	Training on Biosafety Clearing House under the Cartagena Protocol of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (Kyrgyzstan)	Russian	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/ 0/folders/1CrMUKgzAWvchbX0 HRMfsqg37Sly8zZz0
14	Training on water diplomacy and international water law	Russian	riverbp.net

ANNEXES

Annex No.5 List of NGOs with whom CAREC worked in 2023

#	NGO	Full name of CAREC representative/contact person	Contacts
1	NGO "EKOM" Kazakhstan	Mogilyuk Svetlana	msvgeo@gmail.com +7 (705) 207 45 01
2	ALE "Green Alliance of Kyrgyzstan"	Kadyrov Arstanbek Soltobekovich	office@green-alliance.kg
3	NGO Climate Network of Tajikistan	Latifi Alikhon	latifi@rambler.ru
4	NGO Youth Center "Bosphorus"	Rossoshanskaya Zalina Anatolyevna	zalina@anrussia.ru
5	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Asylkhan Asylbekov	astatur@bk.ru +77017254543
6	Independent Environmental Expertise	Oleg Pechenyuk	expertise@eco-expertise.org ; op_67@mail.ru +996 777 910630
7	Ecoforum of Kazakhstan	Galina Chernova	globus-caspi@mail.ru
8	Ecoforum of Kyrgyzstan	Rauf Sabitov	jabagly-manas@mail.ru
9	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan	Yusup Kamalov	yusup.kamalov@gmail.com
10	Tebigy Kuwwat, Turkmenistan	Timur Aliyev Kurban Ovezmuradov	taliev@list.ru ovezgurban@gmail.com ovezgurban@yandex.com
11	"Gender and Development"	Alla Kuvatova	akuvatova@gmail.com
12	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan	Arthur Vakhitov	ecoforum.uz@gmail.com
13	Association "For Environmentally Clean Fergana"	Ibragimjon Domulajanov	domuladianovi@mail.ru
14	Biosafety Association, Tajikistan	Firuza Nasyrova	firuza_nasyrova@mail.ru
15	Youth Ecological Center of Tajikistan	Yuri Skochilov	ecocentre.tj yskochilov@gmail.com
16	Youth Self-Supporting Center "Bosphorus", Turkmenistan	Zalina Rossoshanskaya	bosfor.info zalina.rossoschanskaya@yandex.ru

17	Eco-Durmush	Kasym Jumayev	https://www.facebook.com/eco.durmus.9/jumayewkasym73@gmail.com
18	International Secretariat for Water (Representative office in Tajikistan)	Olivier Normand	onormand@sie-isw.org
19	International Secretariat for Water (Montreal, Canada)	Nina Bianchi	nbianchi@sie-isw.org
20	Borda (Bremen, Germany)	Tatiana Schellenberg	schellenberg@borda.org
21	Equidev (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)	Firuza Kossimova	firuza.qosimova@equidev.info
22	Public association "Tebigy Kuwwat" (Turkmenistan)	Gurbanmurad Ovezmuradov	ovezgurban@gmail.com
23	Green Alliance of Kyrgyzstan	Chairman - Arstan Kadyrov	arstan0071@mail.ru
24	Aarhus Center in Bishkek	Director - Adil Nurbekov	aarhuscentre.kg@gmail.com
25	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users	Director - Aitkul Burkhanov	aburhanov@mail.ru
26	Public Foundation "Basin Council of Batken Region", Kyrgyzstan	Chairman - Mamediyev Dooron	dosuma64@mail.ru
27	Public Foundation "Basin Council of Padysh-Ata", Kyrgyzstan	Chairman - Ibraimov Smayilbek	sibraimov@mail.ru