



2012-2013 Work Plan
(Ongoing, planned and possible UNECE and ESCAP activities in support of
the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA))

PART I

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

In light of a large degree of interdependence of most of the SPECA member countries, efficient use of water and energy resources on mutually agreed and beneficial terms is critical for economic and social development in the region and meeting basic human needs of its populations. The theme of Water and Energy was among the initial work areas of SPECA and is addressed through the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources. Earlier work has resulted in the elaboration of the Strategy for the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia.

Ongoing projects contribute to the implementation of the SPECA Strategy as well as form part of the Work Programme of the UNECE Water Convention. They include work on water information and water quality, dam safety, development of cooperation on the Chu and Talas rivers. However, it is not clear whether the water information and water quality work will continue in 2012-2013.

The Programme “Trans-boundary Water Management in Central Asia” was launched in 2008 by the Government of Germany. A Programme component “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management” is being implemented by the UNECE. The first phase of the Programme will be concluded in December 2011. It included work on regional institutions, international water legislation and regional guidelines / principles for water management, as well as development of monitoring and information exchange. Discussion on its continuation between 2012 and 2014 is ongoing.

Activities under the UNECE Sustainable Energy Work Programme in the region are also contributing to the implementation of the SPECA Strategy. They include work on renewable energy development, financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation, energy efficiency market formation and support to energy efficiency capacity-building, as well as climate change mitigation through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies.

The project “Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” was launched by UNECE in 2010 in cooperation with ESCAP and UN DESA. In 2011, UNCTAD joined the project as cooperating Agency. Participating countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The Project will continue to be implemented in 2012 and include work on increasing interregional cooperation to overcome existing barriers to the investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies in Central Asia.

The SPECA Governing Council in May 2006 in Baku decided that the proposals for a Coordinated SPECA Energy System and the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation be submitted to the Project Working Group (PWG) on Water and Energy Resources for consideration and reporting to the next Coordinating Committee. The SPECA Coordinating Committee met in December 2006 in Dushanbe, following the PWG session, which reviewed the two proposals extensively and recommended the approval of those projects. The SPECA Coordinating Committee subsequently endorsed the recommendations of the PWG.

In 2009, ESCAP initiated two projects to implement two of these recommendations and is seeking funding for initiating a third project. Specifically, projects “Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America” and the “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment” include a component on sustainable building design and an initial study is being undertaken in Tajikistan. The project “Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries” focuses on three subregions in Asia, one of which is Central Asia. The purpose of this project is to strengthen institutional capacity and develop policy options to support the promotion of energy efficiency.

In 2011, UNECE has initiated two projects addressing the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation. The project “Analysis of Advanced Technologies in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the framework of the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project and Preparation of Recommendations on its Application with Special Emphasis on SPECA Region” will be implemented in 2011-2013. The overall objective is to develop a more systematic exchange of experience on capacity-building, policy reforms and investment project finance among countries of the other regions of the world through their UN Regional Commissions in order to promote advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to raise economic productivity, diminish fuel poverty and reduce environmental pollution such as greenhouse gas emissions.

The overall objective of the project “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security” is to support the development of energy efficiency and energy saving common programmes designed to reduce the domestic consumption of energy in the CIS countries in order to enhance their energy security. The project will be implemented in the period 2011-2013.

In 2011–2013, the following projects and activities are envisaged:

WATER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Dam safety in Central Asia: capacity-building and subregional cooperation (in cooperation with UNDP and OSCE)	2012-2014	US\$ 100,000 for 2012-2014 (Governments of Finland and the Russian Federation)
Third project phase “Development of	2012-2014	Fund-raising ongoing

Cooperation on the Chu and Talas Rivers” (in cooperation with OSCE)		
Promoting cooperation to adapt to climate change in the Chu-Talas transboundary basin	2010-2012	Euro 225,000 Funded by Finland
Second phase of the Programme “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia”	2012-2013	US\$ 700,000 Fund-raising ongoing
Strengthening cooperation on transboundary watershed management between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the upper AmuDarya River basin	2011-2012	US\$ 150,000 Funded by the Russian Federation
Renewable energy in Central Asia “Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation” project (UNECE)	2008-2011	US\$ 150,000 for 2008-2010 Funded by the Russian Federation
“Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies” project (UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and UN DESA and UNCTAD) Financing energy efficiency for climate change mitigation (UNECE in cooperation with UNDP)	2010-2012	US\$ 629,000 UN Development Account
UNECE: “Analysis of Advanced Technologies in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the Framework of the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project and Preparation of Recommendations on its application with special emphasis on the SPECA region”	2007-2014	Kazakhstan is the only SPECA country eligible to participate. Other SPECA member countries will be invited to training workshops and policy seminars as an outreach activity
UNECE: “Enhancing Synergies in CIS National Programmes on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving for Greater Energy Security”	2011-2013	US\$ 150,000 Funded by the Russian Federation
ESCAP under the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency and Conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in Selected Asian Countries” (KEMCO) • “Eco-efficient and Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development in Asia and Latin America” (United Nations Development Account) • “Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment” (Kitakyushu Initiative) 	2009-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEMCO (US\$ 50,000 approximately for Central Asia) • Development Account (US\$ 74,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia) • Kitakyushu Initiative (US\$ 25,000 for Central Asia and Mongolia) • Funding sought from the Russian Federation for implementation of activities in 2010 • Funding sought from GEF, the Russian Federation and

		other donors for implementation of activities beyond 2011
<p>ESCAP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the online database of policy and legal frameworks for energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in North and Central Asia. 2. Conduct an assessment study on energy efficiency potential and market opportunities in North and Central Asia. 3. Conduct an assessment study on development a market for energy efficiency and clean energy technologies at the subregional level in North and Central Asia and potentially with North-East Asia or other subregions. 4. Capacity-building for enhanced energy cooperation and better understanding of issues related to energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies of market development, financing of energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects, through organization of group trainings. 5. Updating the status of water resources and services management in a consultancy to be completed in February 2012, as part of ESCAP strategy for future work. 6. Working together with partners, such as UNU, to assess the capacity-building needs of the Asia Pacific region, including Central Asia. 	2011-2012	Russian Federation
<p>Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above</p>		
Coordinated SPECA Energy System	2010-2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 500,000
Trans-Asian Energy System	2010-2015	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 500,000
Wind energy resources assessment and technology demonstration	2010-2012	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 648,900
Network of national energy efficiency centres in Central Asia (UNECE in cooperation with ESCAP and CAREC)	2012-2013	Funding being sought Estimated budget US\$ 200,000

Water quality in the AmuDarya basin	2012-2015	US\$ 1.200,000 Fund-raising ongoing
Lifting Afghanistan to become an equal riparian member within the AmuDarya basin	2012-2015	US\$ 1.825,000 Fund-raising ongoing
Strengthening implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements and enhancing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia	2012-2015	US\$ 2.900,000 Fund-raising ongoing

TRANSPORT

The annual sessions of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing serve as an effective cooperation mechanism to address the specific problems of transit transport from, in and through SPECA member countries. Improvement of international transit transport infrastructure and services, as recognized in the Almaty Programme of Action, will facilitate further integration of SPECA member countries into the world economy. The ESCAP resolution 63/9 on Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme, Phase I (2007-2011) reiterated its support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries.

The 16th session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC) held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 20-21 April 2011 adopted its Programme of Work for 2012-2013, which includes: organization of regular sessions of the SPECA PWG and bilateral consultations on border-crossing issues between SPECA member countries; implementation of subregional projects of common interest to SPECA countries and development of SPECA Transport databases, identification and isolation of bottlenecks, establishment / strengthening of national facilitation and coordinating mechanisms, enhancement of legal frameworks for transport facilitation and accession to multilateral agreements, investment promotion, making operational of transport corridors, simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures, including through ICT, and road safety issues.

TRANSPORT

Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Organization of regular sessions of the SPECA PWG-TBC, including Bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA member countries	One per year	UN Regular budget (RPTC)

<p>Development and implementation of subregional project proposals of common interest to SPECA member countries with an increased collaboration and interactions at the regional and national levels to address transport issues in and across the SPECA region and to promote investment in transport infrastructure and operation of transport corridors in the SPECA region, and promotion of demonstration runs through the SPECA road and rail networks, through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNECE project on developing Euro-Asian Transport Links (Phase II) • Development of dry ports to facilitate intermodal and transit transport along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, and promotion of logistics in the ESCAP region 	<p>2009-2012</p> <p>2009-2012</p>	<p>US\$ 180,000</p> <p>US\$ 270,000</p>
<p>Development and maintenance of SPECA PWG-TBC databases on road routes of international importance; rail routes of international importance; intermodal transport infrastructure and border crossing</p>		
<p>Identification and isolation of major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport in the SPECA region through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCAP/UNCTAD/ECA UNDA joint project "Capacity-building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-Border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Countries" (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) 	<p>2011-2013</p>	<p>US\$ 533,000</p>
<p>Simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops for the adoption of Unified Railway Law to be used by SPECA • Workshops for simplification and harmonization of border-crossing procedures and application of new technologies 	<p>2012-2013</p> <p>2012-2013</p>	<p>US\$ 150,000</p> <p>US\$ 100,000</p>
<p>Establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for improved collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport from the public and private sectors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring transport performance in SPECA member countries based on a new UNECE 	<p>2012</p>	<p>US\$ 150,000</p>

developed methodology • ESCAP workshop and advisory services	2012	US\$ 60,000
Enhancement of legal frameworks for international transport to reflect suitable legal regimes for international land transport facilitation, of which: • Technical assistance to SPECA member countries in the field of international transport of dangerous goods • ESCAP assistance in implementation of SCO Road Facilitation Agreement	2012-2013 2012-2013	US\$ 120,000 US\$ 200,000
Capacity-building in developing transit transport cooperation of landlocked and transit developing countries in Central Asia	2010-2011	Estimated Budget US\$ 200,000
Accession to multilateral agreements on infrastructure, including AGR, AGC, AGTC, Intergovernmental agreements on Asian Highway and Tran-Asian Railway Networks to prioritize infrastructure development of international importance		
Increased awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved collaboration in the SPECA region, of which • Seminars on UN Regulations on vehicle safety and on periodical technical inspection of vehicles in view of accession of SPECA member countries to UNECE Agreements (1997 Agreement: Periodical technical inspections; 1958 Agreement: Uniform technical prescriptions for vehicles and parts and conditions for reciprocal recognition of approvals)	Upon request 2012	UN Regular budget (RPTC) US\$ 570,000

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

The fifth session of the SPECA Project Working Group (PWG) on Trade took place on 2 December 2010 in Baku, Azerbaijan, immediately following the Aid-for-Trade Roadmap for SPECA Ministerial Meeting on 1-2 December 2011. Some of the countries were represented on a Ministerial level and several development partners participated in the meeting (e.g. ESCAP, ITC, IDB and ITFC, UNDP, UNECE, UNIDO, etc.). The participants confirmed that, in the future, the SPECA PWG on Trade is expected to become the institutional backbone for the SPECA Aid-for-Trade Initiative. New projects were identified: in support of regional cooperation for trade policy formulation and WTO accession (ESCAP); follow-up to previous projects on trade facilitation and

the Single Window (UNECE); accession to the UNCITRAL instruments on e-commerce (UNCITRAL); and others.

The SPECA PWG on Trade Work Plan reflects the findings of the needs assessments carried out by UNDP and the resulting matrices of national and regional trade development priorities. Emphasis has been placed on the creation of synergies with other projects and agencies working in trade, such as UNDP, ITC, IDB and ITFC, UNIDO, UNCTAD, GIZ, USAID, ADB and others, as well as on the strengthening of work on standardization and on capacity-building to support export diversification. The recommendations of the Baku Ministerial Declaration are fundamental for the future work plans of the PWG on Trade, notably the regional priority given to work in the areas of: (1) supply-side measures (such as productive capacity and market development, reinforcement of trade-support institutions, and regulatory reforms); (2) cross-border cooperation to improve the physical and institutional infrastructure and market access; and (3) facilitating the integration of the SPECA member countries in the multilateral trading system. The Ministerial Declaration also called for the establishment of a SPECA Aft Implementation and Monitoring Council, which would work in close cooperation with the SPECA PWG on Trade.

Activities in the Work Programme of the PWG on Trade for 2012-2013 are focused on projects for which funding is either already available or is expected: (1) trade facilitation and trade policy development (7th tranche of the UNDA and extrabudgetary projects, notably the Russian voluntary contribution projects for trade facilitation in the Customs Union of EurAsEC and trade development needs assessment for Kazakhstan); (2) capacity-building for agricultural product standards (Russian voluntary contribution); (3) regional cooperation on trade policy (including WTO accession and concluding RTAs) and development through the SPECA Network on Trade Cooperation; (4) private sector development with focus on SMEs development and investment promotion and facilitation (currently under development); and other activities. The sixth session of the SPECA PWG on Trade will adopt the Work Plan for 2012-2013 which is proposed as follows:

TRADE DEVELOPMENT		
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Strengthening the capacity of developing and transition economies to link to the global supply chains (UNDA 7 th Tranche Project) (UNECE lead agency)	2011-2013	US\$ 55,000
SPECA Network on Trade Cooperation (ESCAP lead agency) (part of UNDA 8 th Tranche Project on MDGs)	2012-2013	US\$ 48,000
Support for Trade Facilitation and Single Window projects in the Customs Union of EurAsEC	2012-2013	US\$ 80,000
Capacity-building for the implementation of international agricultural quality standards in the Central Asian countries	2012-2013	appr. US\$ 20,000

Trade facilitation and regulatory environment needs assessment for Kazakhstan (UNECE and ITC joint project)	2012-2013	US\$ 60,000 (partly for SPECA)
Capacity development of the private sector: SME development and promotion/facilitation of FDI (ESCAP lead agency; donors to be approached)	2012-2014	US\$ 1,000,000 (tentatively)

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

In 2012-2013, UNECE capacity-building activities in the SPECA region will continue to focus on relevant areas, such as national accounts, short-term economic statistics, MDG indicators, population and housing censuses, gender statistics, migration statistics, measuring violence against women, environment and sustainable development. This will be achieved by promoting the exchange at subregional level of national good practices, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the establishment of an active network of experts. At the request of the countries, these activities will be complemented by advisory missions from UNECE experts. Experts from SPECA member countries will be encouraged to participate in all activities under the umbrella of the Conference of European Statisticians and the SPECA PWG on Statistics. As requested at the 2011 meeting of the SPECA PWG on Statistics, the UNECE Statistical Division is developing three capacity-building programmes in the field of Economic Statistics, Regional Migration Statistics and Streamlining Statistical Production. These projects are fully demand-driven but the major challenge will be to raise funds for their implementation.

The UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), will continue global assessments (GA) of the national statistical systems of SPECA member countries.

To ensure effective delivery of its technical cooperation activities, the subprogramme will continue to forge partnerships at different levels, in particular with ESCAP, UNSD, Eurostat, EFTA, OECD, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PARIS21, SIAP, the World Bank, IMF, WHO and other international organizations.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY-BUILDING

Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the MDGs through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing	2010-2012	UNDA 7th tranche US\$ 152,000

Enhancing key statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals	2010-2013	UNDA 7th tranche tbc
Streamlining statistical production To raise awareness of new statistical production tools and to offer solutions for improving production processes and reducing respondent burden	2011-2012	Extrabudgetary funds US\$ 80,000
UNECE Capacity-building Programme on New Challenges in Economic Statistics in the Central Asian Countries	2009-2012	World Bank TFSCB to UNECE US\$ 355,000
Strengthening statistical capacity of countries with economies in transition to assess progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal on Environmental Sustainability and provide data on environmental vulnerabilities	2012-2014	UNDA 7th tranche US\$ 391,000
Interregional Cooperation to Strengthen National Capacities to Measure Progress in Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	2012-2013	UNDA 8th tranche:US\$ 677,000
Global assessments of national statistical systems of the SPECA member countries	Ongoing	UN Regular budget (RPTC) US\$ 20,000/year
Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which could be implemented if supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.		
Capacity-building programme on adapting economic statistics to new prerequisites of the market economy, including implementation of the UN System of National Accounts 2008	2013-2016	As requested by the SPECA PWG on Statistics Fund-raising: US\$ 620,000 (full project)
Strengthening statistics on regional migration	2013-2016	As requested by the SPECA PWG on Statistics Fund-raising: US\$ 991,000 (full project)
Modernizing Statistical Production	2013-2016	As requested by the SPECA PWG on Statistics Fund-raising: US\$ 720,000 (full project)

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

The activities to be carried out by the PWG on Knowledge-based development are demand-driven, focused on priority topics and matched with available resources.

Activities envisaged for 2012-2013

1. Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development

Objectives: To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA member countries to advance knowledge-based development by developing relevant substantive skills, increasing the organizational capacity of the institutions involved and promoting regional cooperation.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Organization of a regional/subregional capacity-building event on knowledge-based development, possibly in conjunction with annual session of the PWG on KBD (tentatively envisaged for 2013);
- (ii) Participation of experts from SPECA member countries in UNECE policy-oriented meetings and capacity-building events on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners; and
- (iii) Policy advisory services and other events promoting knowledge-based development at the request of Governments of SPECA member countries, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding.

2. Capacity-building on the adoption and application of innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth

Objectives: To strengthen the national capacity of the SPECA member countries to adopt and apply innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth. The project aims to strengthen national policymakers' capacity to design effective innovation policy for clean technology take-up and diffusion; to understand the different financial mechanisms to facilitate the financing of specific clean technology projects, including through Public-Private Partnerships; and to mainstream climate change considerations into the policy mix to create an appropriate enabling environment.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Preparation of country assessments of participating countries' clean technology needs, climate action and innovation policies, and financing options for take-up and diffusion of clean technologies (tentatively envisaged for 2012);
- (ii) Organization of a regional/subregional project initiation meeting for policymakers of SPECA member countries (tentatively envisaged for 2013); and

- (iii) Organization of national capacity-building seminars on the adoption and application of clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth, covering issues related to innovation policy, climate change policy; and financing (tentatively envisaged for 2013).

3. Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness

Objectives: To empower senior decision makers with relevant ICT policy knowledge and expertise in promoting innovation-based competitiveness and eCommerce development.

Proposed activities: Organization of a regional/national capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory framework for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating eCommerce (upon request).

4. Strengthening regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP Member States in policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development

Objectives: To build a regional knowledge base for improved disaster risk reduction and increase awareness of policymakers of emerging disaster risks and related socio-economic implications to address gaps and priorities in future disaster risk reduction strategies.

The effectiveness of disaster risk management depends greatly on countries knowledge and improved availability of information and analytical capabilities in assessing the benefits of disaster risk reduction and the effects of disasters. With a focus on building a regional knowledge base for improved disaster risk reduction, the project will develop and make available information and knowledge to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and government officials to formulate strategies and policies to reduce the risk of disasters.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Preparation of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012 on emerging disaster risks and socio-economic implications as well as best practices and lessons learned in various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- (ii) Development the Asia-Pacific Gateway on Disaster Risk Reduction and Development as a knowledge management platform for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning.

5. Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms in ICTs and disaster risk reduction for development

Objectives: To strengthen regional cooperation for capacity development in support of effective disaster risk reduction and development, with emphasis on extreme weather-related events such as drought and floods.

Though there are advancements in Information, Communication and Space Technologies (ICSTs) and their applications, there exists significant digital divides. Effective access and use of satellite-based resources can enhance response efforts by providing valuable information and services, including remote sensing, communication and navigational information. Strengthened regional

cooperation can enhance sharing and access to information and capacities to use them for disaster risk reduction and management.

Proposed activities:

Prepare relevant documents and organize capacity development training, seminars and/or workshops to access and utilize the space-based products, information and services available through strengthened regional cooperation and networking for disaster risk management and development.

6. Enhancing National Capacities to Use ICTs for Socio-Economic Development

Objectives: To enhance the capacities of policymakers, government officials and other relevant stakeholders to utilize ICTs for achieving national development goals.

Proposed activities:

- (i) Russian version of two new training Modules developed by APCICT as part of its flagship ICT for development (ICTD) capacity-building programme called the “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders” (Academy) will be launched in 2012. These include Module 9 (ICT for Disaster Risk Reduction) and Module 10 (ICT and Climate Change).
- (ii) A Subregional Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Academy Module 9 and Module 10 will be organized in the Russian language for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. The workshop will be organized in partnership with the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), and is tentatively scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in May 2012. It will help expand the pool of local resource persons and will be followed by a series of national level workshops in countries, such as Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- (iii) Provincial level ICTD training of officials will be conducted in Tajikistan in 2012, utilizing the Tajik language version of the Academy Modules 1-8 already launched in 2011.
- (iv) APCICT will launch two sets of ICTD case studies from CIS countries. These case studies will be used to customize and complement the Academy training modules so that the trainees can better appreciate the learning in their own contexts.
- (v) APCICT will provide advisory services to the ICT Council in Tajikistan for building and strengthening national institutions in the area of ICT.
- (vi) APCICT will also conduct another subregional TOT for academicians and resource persons from the CIS countries aimed at raising the awareness of students and youth, who comprise the workforce of the future, about the potential of ICTs to promote socio-economic development. This will be part of an APCICT initiative titled “Turning Today’s Youth into Tomorrow’s Leaders”. The TOT will utilize the Russian version of a new learning resource developed by APCICT especially for universities and educational institutions. Ministries of education and ICT as well as universities from CIS countries will be engaged in development of national strategies for utilization of the learning resource.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT		
Area of Activity	Timeframe	Budget
Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected. These activities would be implemented in mutually reinforcing way. Additional support from interested partners would expand the scope and the number of beneficiaries of these projects/activities.		
Capacity-building in policy options and practical instruments for promoting knowledge-based development (UNECE)	2012-2013	UNECE extrabudgetary funds
Capacity-building on the adoption and application of innovative clean technologies for climate change adaptation and sustainable knowledge-driven growth (UNECE)	2012-2013	UNDA
Capacity-building on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness (UNECE)	2012-2013	UNECE extrabudgetary funds
Strengthening regional knowledge and capacity of ESCAP Member States in policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development (ESCAP)	2012-2013	ESCAP extrabudgetary funds
Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms in ICTs and disaster risk reduction for development (ESCAP)	2012-2013	ESCAP extrabudgetary funds
Enhancing national capacities to use ICTs for socio-economic development (ESCAP/APCICT)	2012-2013	APCICT extrabudgetary funds Co-funding by ESCAP donors/partners

GENDER AND ECONOMY

A key challenge for the SPECA Working Group in Gender and Economy is securing funds for joint project activities. The UNECE secretariat developed two project proposals in 2010 and 2011. These were discussed and approved by the Working Group at its meeting on 20 September 2011 and are presented in more detail below.

Planned activities for 2012-2013

Capacity-building

Building on the successful cooperation with the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre since 2006, training workshops in support of women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia are expected to be continued in 2012 and 2013.

Forum for Women Entrepreneurs

UNECE plans to hold a region-wide forum for women entrepreneurs in 2012. Women entrepreneurs from SPECA member countries will be invited to actively participate.

Fund-raising for new project activities

Funds are currently sought for two projects proposals outlined below which could be implemented by the Working Group in 2012-2013:

1. Strengthening institutional support for women entrepreneurs through business associations in SPECA member countries

The proposed project would contribute to strengthening an enabling business environment for women entrepreneurs in the SPECA region through a capacity-building and networking programme. It would cover four subregional training workshops for women business associations in the SPECA region. These workshops would strengthen the capacity of women's business associations to: (1) advocate the needs of business women to policymakers, and (2) provide business training and support services to women entrepreneurs in their respective countries.

2. Enhancing the capacity of governments in Central Asia and the South Caucasus to mainstream gender in economic policies

The project would develop and provide tailored gender trainings for economic policymakers. While gender trainings have become more wide-spread across the region, they are often only offered on an ad hoc basis. In order to achieve gender-sensitive economic policies, it is important to integrate gender trainings into existing training curricula for policymakers on a permanent basis. This project would address this challenge in three steps: first, by developing a training module which is tailored to the practical needs of economic policymakers; second, by delivering trainings to government trainers to use the module, who would then, in a third step, train economic policymakers to formulate and implement gender-sensitive policies.

GENDER AND ECONOMY	
Name of Project/Activity	Timeframe
Training workshops on support systems for women in small business to strengthen the business environment for women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia, Haifa, Israel	2012-2013
Two training workshops on the use of information and communication technologies targeted at women entrepreneurs in Central Asia	2012-2013
Fund-raising for new project activities	2012
Region-wide Women's Entrepreneurship Forum	2012