



# Germany's cooperation with Central Asia: from the Berlin Process to the Green Central Asia Initiative

First Steering Committee Meeting of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Uzbekistan

Dr. Caroline Milow | 27 September 2022



**Green Central Asia**

Enhancing environment, climate and water resilience

# Germany's engagement in Central Asia – ,green' portfolio

## Commissioning Ministries – overall 170 million Euro of grants

- ❑ Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ)
- ❑ Federal Foreign Office (AA)
- ❑ Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
- ❑ Federal Ministry of Research and Education of Germany (BMBF)



# Germany's engagement in Central Asia – ‚green‘ portfolio

In close cooperation with the Central Asian Partner Countries engagement on:

- improvement of regional water management,
- development of national spatial data infrastructures,
- establishment of transboundary cooperation mechanisms,
- strengthening of transboundary protected area management,
- improvement of framework conditions for integrative land use approaches,
- improvement of transboundary climate and disaster risk management,
- capacity building, knowledge management and information exchange.



# International-Regional-National Framework

- UNFCCC & Paris Agreement



- International Water / Environment Instruments (UN, UNECE)

- EU-Central Asia Strategy, June 2019



- Regional Team Europe Initiative on on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia / Global Gateway

- Sustainable Development Goals



- ASBP-4



- Regional Environment Action Plan

- National Strategies and Action Plans in the Central Asian Partner Countries



# Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme / Berlin Process

## Facts & Figures

- An offer of the German Federal Foreign Office to the countries of Central Asia to support them in water management and to make water a subject of intensified transboundary cooperation.
- Partners: UNECE, CAREC
- Open to all stakeholders in the Central Asian region
- Supplemented the EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia
- Main goal: political rapprochement in Central Asia / conflict prevention
- Commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office since 2009 (end June 2020) – 38 MEURO
- Implementation of more than 34 national IWRM pilot projects
- First River Basin Management Plans developed in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan
- First Basin Council established in Kazakhstan



# "Sustainable management of water resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan" - C1: National policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management and supply part (2016-2020) – 12 MEURO

## Objectives

Contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in the rural sector in Uzbekistan in the context of a changing climate

Improve the water supply and the efficiency of water resources management at national, basin and farm level

## Activities

- Set up of a National Working Group acting as a multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate policy dialogue
- Analysis of existing legislation and provision of recommendations to align to EU Water Framework Directive/international standards
- Promotion of exchange of experience with EU institutions on water, land use and energy efficiency
- Capacity building addressed to policy makers
- Improvement of access and data exchange between different agencies, units and users
- Development of water basin management plans introducing the methodology of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment



Programme funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



# Strengthening monitoring of the technical condition and of the safety of hydraulic structures in the Republic of Uzbekistan (2018-19)

Funded by the BMZ – German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (SFF Fund for Uzbekistan)

Main Partner and Beneficiary: State Inspection for Dam Safety – Gosvodkhoznadzor

Activities:

1. Technical assistance to „Gosvodkhoznadzor“ in the form of high precision equipment to enable security and safety assessments as well as maintenance of water infrastructure installations in the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as procurement of a vehicle to be able to visit and check on remote water infrastructure objects.
2. Capacity building for personnel responsible for the safety and operation of water infrastructure, including study tour.



# Green Central Asia – Scope and Vision

## 2020 Berlin Conference – Joint Declaration

Initiation of a dialogue on climate change and its risks for the Central Asian Region

Strengthening the resilience of the States against internal and external risk factors like for instance climate and environment factors

## Adopted Joint Action Plan – Operational Plan

Implementation:

Dialogue on high and working level

Activities: policy advise, exchange, projects

Capacity building (Budget: 8 MEURO)



## Implementing Partners:

[Geo Research Centre Potsdam – GFZ](#)

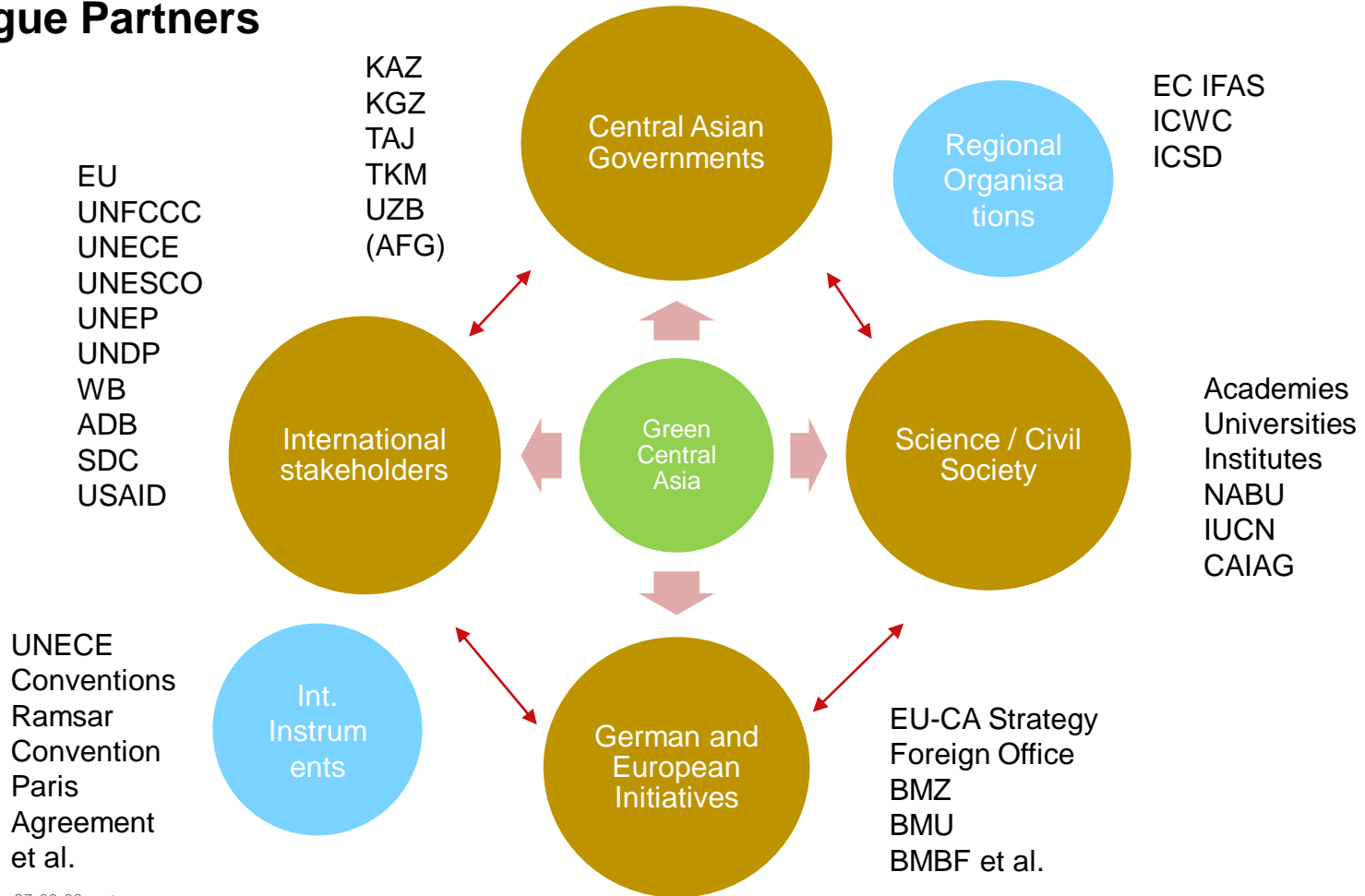
[Potsdam Institute for Climate Research – PIK](#)

[Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg](#)

[German-Kazakh University](#)



# Dialogue Partners



# Dialogue Structure

## Regional Policy Dialogue

- Based on adopted Joint Regional Action Plan
- High-level dialogue
- National-level dialogue/workshops
- **Regional Working Group Meetings**
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

## Joint Regional Priorities

- IWRM / Water Diplomacy
- Land management (biodiversity, desertification, nature protection areas)
- International environment instruments
- Waste Management (e-waste, circular economy)

## Capacity building

- Silk Road Conference: Climate, Science, Economics
- IWRM Master's program
- Summer Schools and Trainings for partners
- Training on MODSNOW and WUEMoCA/GI/Drought Tool
- climate modelling et al. (based on agreement)
- Tashkent Water Security Lectures

# Joint Regional Action Plan – Priority area 1

## Climate change impact on regional water resources management



1. Regional water management based on the principles of IWRM and basin planning with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation (EU examples Rhine, Danube, Elbe)
2. Glacier and GLOF monitoring and forecast models
3. Disaster risk management: drought and flood early warning and forecasting
4. Data management and exchange: remote sensing, GIS, MODSNOW, 18 remotely operated multi-parameter stations (ROMPS) in Central Asia providing information through the Sensor Data Storage System (SDSS) hosted at the Central-Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG) in Bishkek/Kyrgyz Republic
5. Water-energy nexus – mutually acceptable mechanisms of water-energy cooperation/ Renewables

# Regional working groups

## Regional working group on Glacier monitoring, modelling – coordination and cooperation in Central Asia

- A Regional Working Group (RWG) was established with the participation of representatives of environmental, hydrometeorological, national glacier research centres, etc. from the five Central Asian countries.
- On March 30, 2022, the First meeting of the RWG was held in a hybrid format.
- Analytical reports on glacier monitoring in each of the Central Asian countries were developed by national experts. Proposals for joint (regional) monitoring of glaciers have been submitted by all national experts.

## Regional working group on mutually beneficial water-energy cooperation mechanism for Central Asia

- A Regional Working Group (RWG) with representatives from the MFAs and the relevant authorities in the field of energy and water management of the five Central Asian countries has been established.
- The first meeting of the RWG took place on May 19, 2022, in online format.

# Climate risk management in Central Asia

## **Main objective**

Improved climate and disaster risk management in Central Asia

## **Implementation period**

2022 to 02/2026

## **Funding amount and source(s)**

10 MEURO / BMZ –Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

## **Implementation arrangements / partners**

Environment Ministries / State Committees of 5 CA States

Center for Emergency Situation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Almaty

## **Scope and expected results**

Capacities of local actors in cross-border climate risk management are strengthened

Basis for cross-border early warning of hydrological disasters is improved

Subnational and regional dialogue forums address the topic of cross-border climate risk management

# Climate Sensitive Regional Water Resources Management in Central Asia

## **Main objective**

Improved climate-sensitive, integrated (cross-sectoral) water resources management in Central Asia

## **Implementation period**

2023 to 2027

## **Funding amount and source(s)**

10 MEURO / BMZ –Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

2.9 MEURO SDC co-financing

## **Implementation arrangements / partners**

Ministries / State Committees for Water Resources Management

IFAS – BWOs and national sub-branches

## **Scope and expected results**

Improving cooperation and planning processes at regional and river basin level Basis for cross-border

Further development of capacities for climate sensitive IWRM for national and regional water managers

Strengthening of certain orientations of the climate sensitive IWRM with pilot measures

# Why regional cooperation is so important

- Strengthens water management (IWRM – cross-sectoral approach)
- Fosters energy exchange between countries
- Improves climate change mitigation and adaptation for a sustainable future
- Increases economic development (costs of inaction)
- Strengthens good governance



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