

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Implementer: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC).

Title: Enabling transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy through development and launch of the regional information hub - Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP)¹. CACIP is designed to collect and visualize public-domain climate and climate-relevant data, knowledge products, analytical information and learning materials to help stakeholders improve awareness, assessment, good governance and decision making.

Focused areas: 1, 2, 4, 8, 9:

1 Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; 2 Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 4 Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns; 8 Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; 9 Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2019-2024 years.

Description of the action: The Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP), which was developed in 2019-2021 and is undergoing a beta testing at the moment, contributes to innovations in climate communication and addresses key gaps in the CA region pertaining to access to climate information and related knowledge base for adaptation and mitigation measures. The CACIP makes available comprehensive and up-to-date relevant climate data and information, linking with high-quality datasets from global, regional, and local sources and provides analytical tools and interfaces for the visualization and interpretation of data and information. Acknowledging the multitude of existing portals providing access to different sources of information, the CACIP platform acts as a one-stop-shop (portal) for climate data and knowledge for Central Asia. The CACIP team is currently implementing a needs assessment of CACIP target users (national and local government agencies, IFIs and international development partners, think tanks, academic and research institutions, business, NGOs, land users). Results of needs assessment will provide up-to-date feedback from CACIP users to improve effectiveness of engagement with different stakeholders in the region and strengthen knowledge exchange activities. After full launch of the CACIP, the relevant knowledge networks will be created and existing networks will be recharged through targeted webinars, thematic discussions and competitions, bilateral cooperation arrangements with different knowledge partners (on proposal development and resource mobilisation, data sharing, development of e-tools, analytical research, joint publications, provision of online training).

Type of action: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments and (c) information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: The action is covering the sectors: climate change, energy, water, agriculture, environment, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, transport, waste, tourism and housing.

¹ The platform was established with the support of the World Bank financed Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB). CAREC implements the project's regional component since 2016 and will continue to do so till May 2024, during which the CACIP platform will be supported as well.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Project budgets of the “CACIP” project implemented in cooperation and with support of CA governments, international, national and regional partners;

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: CAREC and interested stakeholders in the CA countries will use the CACIP to disseminate information for raising awareness, provide access to data, instruments and tools on climate change and sustainable development, build capacity for strengthening cooperation in the Central Asian region, monitoring and reporting on accomplished results.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG7 – Affordable and clean energy, SDG13 Climate Action, and SDG17 Partnerships for SDGs

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Contents of the CACIP; agenda, LoP, contents and outcomes of the CACIP trainings/ workshops/ sessions/ events/ conferences.

Partners:

CAREC, the World Bank-funded regional project “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Regional partners: IFAS, ICWC, ICSD.

National partners, including Hydromets, Ministries of Environment Protection, Energy, Economy, State Statistics Committees.

CACIP offers a suitable platform for improved donor coordination.

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES/ NO)**
- *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure²” does the action contribute:*
 1. Strategic planning;
 2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
 6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
 9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
 10. Evidence-based decision-making.
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES / NO)**

² The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Implementer: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Title: Promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) through implementation of the European Union REAP (Resource Efficiency in Agri-food Production and Processing) project in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (2020-2024)

Focus area 1, 2, 4, 9: 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 4: Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns; and 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: Promote SCP practices in the agri-food production and processing industries along the entire supply chain, while creating an enabling environment through clusters and by building on current national development strategies, integrating SCP incentives. The SCP practices will focus on resource-efficiency in agri-food production and processing and apply approaches for dealing with resource shortfalls. This will cover increasing the efficiency of water usage, reduction of food-losses and decreasing other energy and resource inefficiency. The process of clusterization will seek to enhance the competitiveness of local businesses.

The European Union REAP project, in partnership with the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, Adelphi Research gGmbH (Germany), Austria Recycling (Austria), STENUM Asia (India), Teri Institute of Energy and Resources (India) is piloting practical implementation of sustainable consumption and production measures in small and medium-sized businesses in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

REAP is a 4-year project (2020-2024) supported by the European Union under the SWITCH Asia Programme. This programme emphasizes sustainable consumption and production in MSMEs. REAP is targeted specifically at the agri-food production and processing sector in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It aims to introduce resource efficiency practices and technologies that lead to improved environmental quality and combat pollution. The REAP project promotes Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices in the agri-food production and processing industries in Central Asia along the entire supply chain in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It covers Dushanbe and Gorno-Badakhshan, Khatlon, Sughd regions of Tajikistan and Tashkent and Bukhara, Ferghana regions of Uzbekistan.

The four-year project started in March 2020 and just as the project activities, including training of local teams on SCP and visiting MSMEs to provide SCP consulting services were about to be rolled out, COVID-19 related restrictions came into force. The project team utilized the time to prepare management structures, internal coordination meetings and other such activities that did not require travel and physical meetings.

REAP Project comprises 400 small and medium businesses in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan where SCP are implemented and a local pool of trained SCP consultants is created. The SCP practices cover increasing the efficiency of water usage, reduction of food-losses and decreasing other energy and resource inefficiency.

With some easing of travel within countries, the REAP project team has come up with a unique approach that combines on-site consulting by local teams and on-line support by the international experts to start to introduce the REAP project to MSMEs and to initiate actions on the ground. This approach requires well-aligned actions between team members despite the physical distance separating the team.

Therefore, a detailed Orientation Training has been developed and delivered online on 2 and 5 November 2020 by international experts for specially selected local teams' members from

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan and National Association of Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as some nominated participants from CAREC. It was facilitated by SCP experienced trainers from Austria Recycling, The Energy and Resources Institute and STENUM Asia. Also, a series of National Consultation Meetings with project partners of REAP have been organized in 2021-2022.

REAP Project hold an event “Implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) measures in MSMEs of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan” in online and offline mode at Central Asia Pavilion “5 countries – 1 region – 1 voice”.

The participants got information about activities of REAP Project implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia in partnership with the *National Association of Small and Medium Business* of the Republic of *Tajikistan*, Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Adelphi Research gGmbH (Germany), Austria Recycling (Austria), STENUM Asia (India), The Energy and Research Institute (India).

At REAP Project presentation event, the participants shared their experience and discussed challenges and opportunities for MSMEs in SCP in implementation of measures. The SCP practices implements “green” economic and financial instruments, green entrepreneurship and new green business models, regulatory mechanisms promoting the market for sustainable products and services.

Action’s timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2020-2024 years

Type of action: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments and (c) information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: The action is covering the sectors: agriculture, energy, water, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, transport, waste, tourism and housing.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Project budgets of the “REAP” project implemented in cooperation and with support of CA governments, international, national and regional partners

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will design, apply and disseminate the integrated approaches, instruments and tools helpful to the process of support of the agri-food production and processing sector in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, introducing resource efficiency practices and technologies that lead to improved environmental quality and combat pollution in the Central Asian region, monitoring and reporting on achieved results.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 - Industry, innovation & infrastructure, SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 - Climate action, SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Agenda, LoP, and outcomes of the REAP project’s events/trainings/workshops/conferences.

Partners:

EU under the SWITCH Asia Programme, Adelphi Research GmbH (Germany), Austria Recycling (Austria), STENUM Asia (India), Teri Institute of Energy and Resources (India).

National partners: National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan

Regional partners: IFAS, ICWC, ICSD, CAREC.

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** (YES / NO)
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructureⁱ” does the action contribute:*
 3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
 4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
 5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
 6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
 7. Enhancing economic benefits;
 9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
 10. Evidence-based decision-making.

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** (YES / **NO**)

ⁱ The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out **ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:**

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Implementer: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Title: Establishment of the Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (ReCATH) in Central Asia by the International Climate Action Transparency Hub (ICAT).

Focus area 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: Establishing a sustainable transparency framework at the governmental level of the Central Asian Region to assess the environmental impact of climate actions and policies in order to help countries to take more ambitious climate actions and develop their NDCs in accordance with robust data. Strengthening capacity for greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and verification MRV through the best available tools and methodologies.

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2021-2024 years

Type of action: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments and (c) information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: The action is covering the sectors: energy, water, agriculture, forestry, mining, manufacturing, transport.

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: ReCATH is funded by ICAT and implemented in cooperation with GHGMI providing technical support, as well as Central Asian governments, the expert community and interested stakeholders

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: The ReCATH will help CA countries increase transparency on climate change action, allowing for policy change and improved accountability to the UNFCCC, as well as creating a sustainable network of climate experts in the region

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG13 Climate Action, and SDG17 Partnerships for SDGs

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Agenda, LoP, and outcomes of the project of the "ReCATH" project events/workshops/conferences.

Partners:

Regional partner: CAREC

National partners: Ministries of Ecology, Environment Protection, Water, Energy, Economy.

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (YES / NO)**
 - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructureⁱ” does the action contribute:*
 1. Strategic planning;
 4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
 5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
 9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
 10. Evidence-based decision-making.

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES / **NO**)**

ⁱ The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out **ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:**

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Implementer: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Action's timeframe/milestones, as appropriate: 2016-2024 years

Title: Support green economy and climate action through implementation of the “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” (CAMP4ASB) of the World Bank’s International Development Association and Green Climate Fund in 2016-2024.

Focus area 2, 3, 9:

2 Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; 3 Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; 9 Promote public participation and education for sustainable development

Description of the action: Support transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and provide key stakeholders in CA countries with regionally-coordinated access to enhanced climate change information services, scaled up investment and capacity building activities.

CAMP4ASB provides key stakeholders in CA countries with regionally-coordinated access to enhanced climate change information services, scaled up investment and capacity building activities. As a whole, this allows for a more effective response to common climate challenges. The project implementation period is August 2016 – May 2024, and it is funded by the International Development Association and Green Climate Fund. The project’s primary piloting areas are Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

TARGET GROUPS: National counterparts, working in the area of climate resilience and sector-based development; Local communities, including farmers, water user associations, pasture management, villagers, private companies;

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To enhance regionally coordinated access to improved climate change knowledge services for key stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, communities, and civil society) in participating Central Asian countries as well as to increase investments and capacity building that, combined, will address climate challenges common to these countries.

CAREC has an observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is an official member of the UNFCCC’s Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN), and a member of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

CAREC’s project CAMP4ASB initiated and successfully implemented a series of dialogues between representatives of the MFA and CA parliamentarians. A delegation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ (IPCC) took part in the dialogue.

At the 52nd Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held during February 24-28, 2020, CAREC was granted the IPCC observer status. This landmark achievement resulted from a number of actions and events that took place in the course of 2019. In particular, the representatives of CAREC, an observer at the UNFCCC, and the CAMP4ASB Project Team supported a series of events with the participation of IPCC representatives, including a side event at COP-25 in Madrid on December 12, 2020. Ways to work together with academia, university priorities, and research opportunities in the region were identified. Also, participation in preparing the IPCC assessment reports was granted.

The meeting of specialists from the region’s hydrometeorological centers identified an urgent need in improving the forecast quality. Different tools and methodologies were adapted and tested. Training by international experts were organized for hydrometeorological services.

¹ IPCC is a UN organization founded in 1988 to carry out regular assessment of climate change risks.

Coverage of climate change in mass media and social networks progressed to a new level in the last 3-4 years. A series of regional and national training by experts (including those from the IPCC) for the region's journalists sparked the interest in climate change.

Well-coordinated access to information services on climate change and training materials at the regional level implies use of modern information and communication technology. Efficient response to common climate risks was ensured by the Central Asia Climate Information Platform (CACIP), which was developed in 2019-2021 and is undergoing beta testing at the moment. After full launch of the CACIP, the relevant knowledge networks will be created and existing networks will be recharged through targeted webinars, thematic discussions and competitions, bilateral cooperation arrangements with different knowledge partners.

According to monitoring results, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan run climate risks that affect the agricultural output. Adaptation measures are conditional on climate investment, which is a relatively novel activity for rural communities. In this regard, a series of trainings were offered to build the capacity of the groups involved in climate investment. Such groups had been selected among participants of the investment project on use of the climate fund: specialists from banks that give loans, national project implementation teams, and farmers.

Collaboration with public environmental organizations and civil society networks continues to improve climate change actions in the region. Support was provided to national events by climate networks in Central Asia.

Type of action: Grants and investments in climate-smart and environmentally friendly practices by farmers; information, education-based, capacity building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: cities; sectors, including: agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, mining, manufacturing, transport, water, waste, tourism and housing, buildings and construction;

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate: Project budgets of the "CAMP4ASB" project implemented in cooperation and support of the World Bank's International Development Association, Green Climate Fund, IFAS, CAREC.

Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome: The CA countries accepted and implemented required green measures and actions in all sectors of economy and have accessibility to new knowledge and information.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG7 – Affordable and clean energy, SDG13 Climate Action, and SDG17 Partnerships for SDGs

Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate: N/A

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate: Agenda, LoP and outcomes of the meetings/workshops/ Regional Conferences on Climate Change for CA countries (CACCC) in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and CACIP platform.

Partners:

Regional partners: IFAS, ICWC, ICSD, CAREC.

National partners, including Hydromets, Ministries of Environment Protection, Energy, Economy, State Statistics Committees.

ICARDA.

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: "Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure"?** (YES/NO)

- *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure²” does the action contribute:*
 1. Strategic planning;
 2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
 3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
 4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
 5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
 6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
 7. Enhancing economic benefits;
 8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
 9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
 10. Evidence-based decision-making.

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES / **NO**)**

² The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
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3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.